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ARAB TIMES

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Talks on ethnic Turks resume

KUWAIT, Jan 8. (Agencies): The Turkish and Bulgarian foreign ministers arrived today to resume Kuwait-sponsored talks on the rights of the Turkish Muslim minority in Bulgaria, with officials optimistic that the two countries were nearing a solution.

The first round of talks was held here Oct 30 before the changes that swept through Eastern Europe.

"Since then, dramatic changes took place in Bulgaria which indicate that an agreement may be in the offing," said an informed official source.

The source was referring to a Dec 19 decision by the central committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, the cabinet and the state council to recognise the rights of the ethnic Turks and concede that the assimilation policy of the former Bulgarian leadership was a mistake.

The development was welcomed by Turkey. There was also an optimistic reaction in Kuwait, where acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed described the Bulgarian decision and the Turkish reaction as "a tangible contribution to the success of the second meeting in Kuwait."

In an arrival statement, Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz said that he had come with best intentions and "hope this unique problem between Turkey and Bulgaria on the plight of Turkish minority in Bulgaria will move as soon as possible."

"We hope that the new Bulgarian decision to return the rights of Muslim Turks in Bulgaria would be fully implemented as soon as possible," the Turkish foreign minister noted.

The Turkish foreign minister expressed deep appreciation for the mediation efforts initiated by HH the Amir of Kuwait and current chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Conference. "This initiative has led us to this point of view," Yilmaz stressed.

In response to a question, the Turkish foreign minister said he will not sign an agreement during the meeting, adding, "we will effectively exchange views."

Yilmaz told reporters in Ankara before flying to the Gulf that "the latest developments cannot be considered met with understanding in any way."

He said the demonstrations were organised by people still loyal to the government of the ousted communist leader Todor Zhivkov.

"I hope that in the course of the

Stress on how to deal with changes in Eastern Europe and European Economic Community's single market



Mubarak (right) meets H.H. the Crown Prince in Cairo. (Reuters wirephoto)

US rejects power-sharing formula

No place for Najib

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

THE US has rejected a power-sharing arrangement with the communists in Afghanistan and has said there is no place for Najibullah in a political settlement. It has also urged the Soviet Union to withdraw its support for the Najibullah regime and give Afghans the same freedom as that of the peoples of Europe to choose their government.

US special envoy to the interim government of Afghanistan Peter Tomsen rejected the power-sharing formula proposed by the Kabul regime and said: "Najibullah must go." Tomsen was interviewed by newsmen and Afghan specialists in the Gulf in a Worldnet link-up.

Najibullah had proposed elections with representation for tribal chiefs, the ruling People's Democratic Party and the mujahideen. Tomsen described the proposal a "manifest of Soviet" wishes and said it was not acceptable to both the mujahideen and its supporters, including Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

(Continued on Page 7)

Kashmir clashes claim 8 lives

SRINAGAR, Jan 8. (Agencies): Rioting by pro-secession Muslims today convulsed four major towns of the Kashmir valley, prompting security forces to fire tear gas and bullets during clashes that left at least eight people dead and scores injured, officials said.

The violence erupted after relaxations or cancellations of curfews imposed last Friday, crowds pouring into the streets to protest alleged police excesses in quelling past disturbances and the arrest of a leader of a militant organisation on Sunday.

Curfews were reimposed in Sopore, Anantnag and Baramulla, while security forces in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir state, 400 miles (640 km) north of New Delhi, ordered residents to restrict their outdoor movements, the officials said on condition of anonymity.

The towns are witnessing an increasingly violent campaign by extremist Muslims demanding either complete independence for the predominantly Muslim region of Kashmir or secession from India and union with the neighbouring Islamic republic of Pakistan.

The militants enjoy the support of virtually all three million residents of the state's picturesque northern Kashmir valley because of years of perceived neglect by New Delhi, political abuses and alleged discrimination against Muslims by India's majority Hindus.

Dozens of people have been killed since the campaign began about two years ago. The militants, who have acquired modern arms and explosives, admit to receiving military training in Pakistan, which disputes India's claim to Kashmir.

They deny receiving arms and funds from Islamabad, which rejects charges of backing the militants.

Officials said hundreds of pro-secession protesters threw rocks and bottles at security forces in Srinagar and the other towns as they chanted slogans, including "Indian dogs go home."

The worst violence occurred in at least seven areas of Srinagar, including the narrow lanes of the old city, where youths built barricades to halt traffic, forced stores and businesses to close and set fire to a state-run handicrafts centre and a girl's school building.

Abdul Sattar, a special envoy of Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, met today with officials of India's new government in the first talks of a visit aimed at rejuvenating a process to normalize relations, the Foreign Ministry said.

A foreign ministry spokesman said Sattar held shoring discussions with Foreign Secretary S.K. Singh, India's former ambassador to Pakistan.

The pair continued their talks over a lunch also attended by India's defence, home and water resources secretaries and several senior Pakistani diplomats.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman declined to reveal details about the meetings except to say the participants "discussed a wide range of matters pertaining to Indo-Pakistan relations."

Arab unity discussed

Sheikh Saad holds talks with Mubarak

CAIRO, Jan 8. (Agencies): Egyptian and Kuwaiti leaders met today and discussed the need for Arab unity in facing the European Economic Community's single market and political change in Eastern Europe.

Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Premier His Highness Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah met President Hosni Mubarak soon after arriving today for a 3-day official visit.

The meeting, which was attended by Egyptian Premier Atef Sedki, was followed by a round of talks, in which Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid was present from the Egyptian side and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Saoud Al Osama, Industry and Trade Minister Faisal Al Khaled and Justice and Legal Affairs Minister Dhari Al Othman attended on the Kuwaiti side.

The Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Premier later attended a luncheon hosted in his honour by President Mubarak.

Following his talks with President Mubarak, Sheikh Saad said the Palestinian issue dominated the talks in light of the contacts under way among various parties, noting the issue is the Arabs' main and pivotal question.

"Talks concentrated on the importance of Arab co-ordination to face the economic developments in Europe," Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki told reporters afterwards.

Sedki said Mubarak and Sheikh Saad agreed that Arabs had to sit down together and discuss how they would deal with changes in Eastern Europe and the community's single market, due to be introduced in 1992.

"These challenges are not simple and neither are these developments... these challenges urge us as an Arab nation to be more understanding, to co-operate and integrate," Sedki said.

"The Kuwaiti and Egyptian sides," he said, "have underlined urgency for starting an inter-Arab dialogue to recommend the best way for facing these significant developments and their possible impact on the Arab nation."

Asked if the talks touched on bilateral ties, Sedki said the issue has not been discussed in detail, though, he said, both sides have underscored common interest and determination to further promote them.

"Aspects of co-operation between Egypt and Kuwait and means of strengthening them will be taken up in the coming days of His Highness's visit to Egypt," he explained.

On an earlier indication made by Kuwait's premier to removal of obstacles before Arab investments in Egypt, Premier Sedki said he is happy as an Egyptian official to hear remarks by any



Joy ride

Thailand's Princess Chulabhorn Mahidol (left) and her husband Veerayudh, dressed in typical Arabian dress, wave as they ride camels at the Giza pyramids. The princess is on an official visit to Egypt.

After anti-Montazeri demos

Tension rises in Iran

NICOSIA, Jan 8. (Reuters): An Iranian opposition group said today tension was rising in several central Iranian cities as merchants closed shops to protest attacks on top-ranking Shiite cleric Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, once designated successor of the late leader Ayatollah Khomeini.

In a report from Baghdad received in Nicosia, the Mujahideen Khalq said turmoil had spread from Montazeri's hometown of Najafabad to the nearby provincial capital of Isfahan.

The report, which could not be independently confirmed, came after the Iranian press reported demonstrations in the holy city of Qom, 220 km (140 miles) to the north, against any return to political life of Montazeri, 66.

Three months before his death in June, Khomeini dismissed Montazeri as his designated heir and told him to stay out of politics.

Tehran newspapers said today that thousands of clergy and laymen demonstrated at the Fayziyeh religious school and outside Montazeri's home in Qom.

They did not give any reasons for the anti-Montazeri demonstrations but said slogans shouted against him included "Montazeri should know that to obey Khomeini is to obey Imam (Khomeini)."

Cory revolt repeat plot

MANILA, Jan 8. (AP): Participants in last month's coup attempt included military units not previously identified as part of the conspiracy and some senior officers believed most of the armed forces were involved in the plot, according to documents obtained today.

The assessments were contained in sworn affidavits made to the military investigators probing the bloody Dec 1-7 attempt to topple President Corason Aquino.

In one affidavit, a rebel army captain who later defected to the government also said priests, nuns, government officials and civilians were supposed to have joined mutinous soldiers, repeating the 1986 "people's power" revolt that ousted the late ruler Ferdinand Marcos.

See Page 5

Missiles fired at Akihito's brother

TOKYO, Jan 8. (AP): Two homemade missiles landed near the residence of Emperor Akihito's brother today, but police said they did not explode and no injuries or damage were reported.

Another homemade missile exploded near the gate of the Imperial Garden in Kyoto, police in the ancient capital city in western Japan said.

Police said there were five launchers in the parked car's trunk. Kyoto news service said one of the missiles in the trunk blew up the car.

Miracle Adele, a year after

By Diana Abou Haidar
Arab Times staff



Adele at a Christian East Beirut hospital after her right foot was blown off by a piece of shrapnel.

WHETHER she realizes it or not, little Adele is a miracle.

When the shell hit her grandparent's house in East Beirut last April, little Adele Touma was in her father's lap. Her pregnant mother was preparing lunch. Within seconds, everybody around her was dead.

She was the only survivor. Her right foot was cut off and her body was full of shrapnel.

Her heart-breaking story stirred the emotions of Arab Times readers when it was published last April. We decided to look her up through our office in Beirut to find out how she is almost a year after the disaster.

Adele, now two years and several months old, lives with her aunt and uncle in a one-bedroom apartment in East Beirut.

The bright-eyed but perpetually sad child is just starting to speak. She can call her three cousins by name. After the accident, she used to say "mommy and daddy, but now she calls me mommy and calls my husband daddy," says her aunt, Therese Touma Nime.

She adds that Adele is so fond of her new father that she will not go to sleep until he comes home.

It broke Therese's heart when she heard Adele cry out "daddy, daddy" after she saw a car that looked like her deceased father's.

"We don't let her feel lonely... I consider myself the mother of four and I'll care for her until she gets married," says Therese fighting tears and explaining how Adele is her only living kin.

On 50,000 Lebanese pounds (\$80) a month, life is tough for Therese and her husband, Adele needs a medical pair of shoes that cost 40,000 pounds, but her aunt is making do with regular shoes that belong to Adele's cousins until she saves enough money to buy them.

Hospital bills are another burden. "Adele's health is not stable, she is suffering from bronchitis... when she becomes eight, she'll need an artificial foot," says Therese.

The baby was treated in France when she was first wounded. Therese says although 17 shrapnel were removed from her body, there are still many more.



Adele inquisitive but sad.

Mandela expected to be free in weeks

PAARL, South Africa, Jan 8. (Reuters): Black South African nationalist leader Nelson Mandela signalled for the first time today that he expects to be free within weeks.

He told his wife in a prison meeting to begin arrangements for his release.

It was the first time since his arrest in August 1962 and his 1964 life sentence for sabotage that Mandela or his wife, Winnie, had acknowledged any optimism about an imminent release.

"This is the real stuff now," Winnie Mandela told reporters at the gates of the Victor Verster prison farm about 60 km (40 miles) northeast of Cape Town, where her husband is held in a Bungalow previously used by a White Warder's family.

She said: "I don't think we are talking about months any longer."

She said Mandela, who had previously insisted he had no idea when he would return home, asked her during a three-hour visit to begin preliminary arrangements for his release.

She declined to say what those arrangements could involve.

Mandela, 71, is a leader of South Africa's outlawed African National Congress (ANC) and a founder of its military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe (spear of the nation).



Winnie talks to journalists after her visit to her husband.



Terry-Thomas dies

Comedy actor Terry-Thomas, who established his screen career as a screen Englishman, died today aged 78. The Parkinson's Disease Society announced.

He had suffered from the debilitating illness for 15 years and appeared in fund-raising advertisements for the society.

Among the 200 films in which Terry-Thomas played the quintessential black-hearted rother were "Private's Progress," "In All Right Jack" and "Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines." (Reuters wirephoto)

See story Page 2

Weather

TEMPERATURE will be around normal with light to moderate north-westerly wind.

State of sea: Moderate

High water: 9:00 am

Low water: 5:00 am, 4:00 pm

Sunrise: 6:44 am

Sunset: 5:07 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 18°C 64°F

Ahmad: 18°C 64°F

Falaka: 18°C 64°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 10°C 50°F

Ahmad: 13°C 55°F

Falaka: 14°C 57°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 19°C 66°F

Ahmad: 18°C 64°F

Falaka: 18°C 64°F

Minimum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 8°C 46°F

Ahmad: 9°C 48°F

Falaka: 9°C 48°F

ARAB TIMES

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Top Line	KD 25
First Full House	KD100
Second Full House	KD 60
Third Full House	KD 40

Bhopal victims halt Devi Lal

BHOPAL, India, Jan 8, (AP): Hundreds of survivors of the 1984 Bhopal disaster blocked the motorcade of India's deputy prime minister today to protest lack of drinking water in their shanty towns.

Men, women and children sat on the road taken by Prime Minister V.P. Singh's deputy, Devi Lal, at about 12 places in this central Indian city.

It was Devi Lal's first visit to Bhopal after taking

office on Dec 2 along with Singh whose National front coalition replaced Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party after the November elections.

Devi Lal's tour, which also included hospitals and rehabilitation centres, came about a month after the fifth anniversary of the world's worst industrial disaster and was the first by a representative of the new government.

At least 3,598 people died and 20,000 were

injured after methyl isocyanate gas leaked from a pesticide plant run by the Indian subsidiary of Union Carbide Corp, the US-based multinational.

Devi Lal stopped his car several times during his one-hour tour and talked to the protesters.

Devi Lal, who is also the country's agriculture minister, said he will try to speed up the process of giving compensation, held up because of litigation in the Indian Supreme Court.

Sikh rebels slay eight

AMRITSAR, India, Jan 8, (AP): Suspected Sikh extremists fatally shot two constables outside a bus station today and ran to the house of one victim where they killed four of his relatives and a servant, police said.

An 11-year-old boy also was killed in the shooting outside the bus station at Budh Singh Wala in Punjab state, said Surjit Singh, the senior superintendent of police.

The village, in Ferozepur district bordering Pakistan, is about 160 kms (100 miles) north of Amritsar.

Singh said two gunmen with AK-47 assault rifles hid in their clothing followed constables Mukhtiar Singh and Santok Singh as they got off a bus and opened fire a short distance away.

The two Sikh policemen and the boy died instantly, he said.

The gunmen then hurried to Mukhtiar Singh's house, about 200 yards (metres) away, and shot to death his two brothers, their wives and a servant, Singh said.

He said the attackers ran away before the police could be alerted in the remote village. They took the slain constables' revolvers, he added.

It was not immediately clear why the policemen were killed, but the extremists have often attacked fellow Sikhs in their 7-year-old militant campaign to set up an independent nation in Punjab, a rich farming area.

Initially, the extremists usually targeted Hindus. In the last few years they also have killed fellow Sikhs for failing to support the separatist cause.

In the new year, at least 48 people have been killed by the separatists. According to police, 1,221 people were killed last year who did not support the separatist cause.

Officials believe the ouster of Rajiv Gandhi encouraged extremists to launch revenge attacks on those they believed responsible for carrying out the former government's iron-fisted approach to dealing with the Sikh insurrection.

Rail disaster

Inquiry into crash starts

KARACHI, Jan 8, (AP): A technical inquiry has been launched into last week's rail disaster, which killed 310 people and injured another 700, officials said today.

With dozens of injured still in critical condition, hospital officials said they expect the death toll to rise.

A government official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said a criminal investigation has also been ordered but the federal government has yet to appoint its chairman, who Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said will be a supreme court justice.

The technical inquiry, which is to be finished by next Monday, is expected to explain why a switch was improperly set, sending an express train overloaded with sleeping passengers crashing into a stationary freight train.

Lankan Muslims may take up arms

COLOMBO, Jan 8, (Agencies): The Muslims of Sri Lanka cannot afford to have a security vacuum in the eastern province even for a day and if the government proves it is incapable of protecting its citizens, then the people have the right to take up arms illegally, a senior Muslim political leader said.

Mohamed Ashraf, leader of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC) and a lawmaker from the eastern province, told his party's annual convention the government should take necessary steps to ensure the safety and security of all people living in the country's northern and eastern provinces before the Indian troops leave the island.

"It is the duty of the state to protect its citizens and if it seems to be incapable of doing so, the people have the right to protect themselves," said Ashraf.

"We have all the rights to ask for weapons and if the government's incapacity continues, the people even have the right to carry illegal weapons," he added.

The SLMC leader charged that in the apparent view of what he called chauvinist parties, the 1.2-million strong Muslim community does not exist in Sri Lanka. A large part of Muslims, who constitute seven per cent of the country's 16 million people, live in the east.

Ashraf said, a united multi-ethnic pluralistic Sri Lanka will not emerge as long as the country's major political parties do not respect the aspirations of the minorities.

Even the Tamil rebels, who took up arms protesting the alleged discrimination by the majority Sinhalese, have failed to understand the Muslim community's determination not to be slaves to the Tamil police, said Ashraf.

Meanwhile, in the Sinhalese dominated southern and central Sri Lanka, security forces shot and killed two radicals of the Eelam People's Liberation Front in two incidents during a 24-hour period ending early today, a government communiqué said.

Two Sri Lankan universities, closed by the government eight months ago due to student protests backed by left-wing rebels, reopened today under tight security, police and university officials said.

At least 6,000 people were killed in Sri Lanka in 1989 as the island nation was torn by a Sinhalese uprising against the government and violence associated with a rebellion by militant Tamils, military officials said.

The officials said at least 500 people were killed during that month of the year as the Sinhalese militant movement gained momentum and Tamil rebels turned their guns against other members of their community.

The chief minister of the north-eastern provincial council, Varatharaja Perumal left for the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu today to have talks with Indian officials on the resolution to the island's Tamil conflict.

Six people were killed and more than 100,000 lost their homes as heavy rain continued to flood many parts of Sri Lanka, police said today.

Freighter detained

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut, Jan 8, (UPI): The US Coast Guard detained a Maltese freighter yesterday, citing poor living conditions for the crew, while a sailor who jumped ship last week remained hospitalised in serious condition, officials said.

The Skyros was ordered to remain in New Haven harbour until structural deficiencies and problems with its water supply are corrected, coast guard Petty Officer Larry Baboolal said. The ship had been enroute to Norfolk, Virginia.

The Skyros, which has a crew of 30 Pakistani nationals, has been docked in New Haven since Jan 1 to pick up scrap metal. At least three crew members tried to escape the ship in the past week because of poor living conditions, officials said.



Face lift

Workers polish and clean the bronze statue of Gabriela Silaus, a Filipina warrior during the Spanish regime, atop a concrete slab along the busy avenue in Manila's financial district of Makati. (Reuters wirephoto)

Terry-Thomas, comedian, dies

Specialists in playing cards

LONDON, Jan 8, (UPI): British comedy film star Terry-Thomas died today of Parkinson's disease. He was 78.

Star of 170 films, Terry-Thomas was a specialist in playing cards, stiff-upper-lipping his roguish way through such epics as "The Last Remake of Beau Geste," the comedy remake of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "It's a Mad Mad Mad Mad World."

In 1975 his career faltered at its height. He was in demand for movies, television, cabaret. He lived in a magnificent house with his second wife and two sons on the Spanish island of Ibiza. He swam, water-skied, trampolined and otherwise kept himself in excellent shape.

But that year he noticed a slight clumsiness about his movements and an occasional tremor in his left hand.

Doctors diagnosed Parkinson's disease, once known as shaking palsy, a progressive, degenerative, incurable condition that can in some cases be held at bay with medication.

Terry-Thomas tried to keep his illness from the cinematic world, fearing it might affect his chances of working. But when the shock of had trouble picking something up on the set, rumours spread of "drunkenness" and he was forced to reveal his condition.

He was so determined not to let Parkinson's rule his life that on his 66th birthday in 1977 he tried to water ski the English Channel for charity, a promise he had made before he discovered he was ill. A top-notch at the sport, he got halfway across before high winds and waves tumbled him.

Terry-Thomas began to leer his gap-toothed way through life early. He was born Thomas Terry Hoar Stevens, in London, July 14, 1911, the son of a wealthy businessman.

As a boy he stole the glass out of his father's watch to use as a monocle in his early impersonations of the nobility and gentry.

He was educated at British public school where, barred from the dramatic society, he formed a Ukelele Jazz band.

Before embarking on his acting career, he worked as a meat porter in London's Smithfield market, tried to make a living gambling and became a dancing teacher.

That was a failure, Terry-Thomas always said, because he never became a gigolo.

His first agent sent him to answer an advertisement for a hot-blooded Spanish-type dancer. It only took one whirl round the floor for a certain Ida Patlinsky to discover the Spanish-type applicant couldn't really dance.

She married him instead.

As he began the climb to stardom he chose the stage name Terry-Thomas in place of his real name, using the hyphen because there was an American Terry Thomas at the time.

Terry-Thomas always insisted the hyphen be used to remind people of the infamous gap between his two front teeth.

His first job in cinema was to imitate the lowing of a cow on the sound track of a Jessie Matthews film.

After he and his wife formed a co-operative to stage revues, he came to the attention of theatre managers, working in clubs and on radio until he was drafted into the British Army in World War II.

His cabaret act in an army show was noted by an impresario who promised him a job after the war. That role was stardom in a West End Revue in London and he never looked back.

Terry-Thomas found his niche in show business as the Rotter, the aristocratic English cad, spraying the screen with phrases such as "jolly good show."

"It's much more fun being the stinker," he said. "I've made all my money, or most of it anyway, sending up pompous Englishmen."

Pawn in Pak dispute

Ship berths finally

KARACHI, Jan 8, (Reuters): A US cargo ship forced to anchor off Karachi for seven months after sailing into the thick of an internal Pakistani political dispute was allowed into port today.

The Jonathan waited months before docking because Pakistan Railways said wagons to carry its shipment of 27,500 tonnes of scrap metal to the Ittefaq Foundation, owned by opposition leader Nawaz Sharif and his family, were unavailable.

Sharif is the chief minister of Pakistan's Punjab province and has been Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's arch-foe since she came to power in December, 1988.

Benazir's father, the late prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, nationalised the foundations from 1972 to 1977. The Sharif family resumed control of Ittefaq, in the northeastern city of Lahore, after General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq seized power in 1977.

30 injured in Bangla student clashes

DHAKA, Jan 8, (AP): Students from two opposition parties battled each other with firebombs, pistols and hockey sticks on three campuses and at least 30 youths were injured, police said today.

Students in Debendra College near Dhaka burned and damaged about a dozen dormitory rooms yesterday, injuring 19 residents, police said.

Clashes also occurred yesterday at Mohan Chand College and Government College in Sylhet, 190 kilometres (120 miles) northeast of Dhaka, police officials said.

Sangbad, a Bengali-language newspaper, said 11

students were injured in Sylhet.

All three colleges were closed until further notice. The fights were between supporters of the Awami League and the Bangladesh National Party, according to officials who cannot be identified under briefing rules.

Both parties oppose the government of President Hussain Muhammad Ershad, but their followers often clash with each other.

Sangbad said the fighting began after the two groups started simultaneous marches and wanted to conduct meetings at the same place at the same time.

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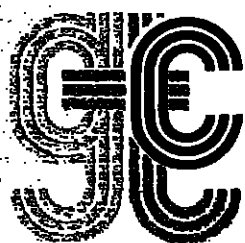
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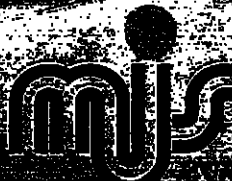
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Tax hike on maids outrages disabled

SINGAPORE, Jan 8, (UPI): A semi-paralysed woman depends upon her Sri Lankan maid for all her daily needs, from baths and household chores to looking after a 9-year-old daughter. "I even need her to roll me over when I sleep," said Pauline Chua. "I cannot turn by myself. What else can I do?"

For the disabled, such help is not a luxury but a necessity and the government's drive to rid Singapore of as many foreign workers as possible by imposing staggering monthly levies has sparked outrage among this section of the community.

Only six months after the last hike, the Labour Ministry announced that starting Feb 1, the monthly levy on foreign maids will jump from \$100 to \$115 and to \$125 in August.

Put lid on

A ministry spokesman noted the increases were aimed at putting the lid on the number of maids streaming in from the Philippines, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Those numbers have increased by 10,000 since April to almost 50,000 despite the earlier taxes.

Trade and Industry Minister Lee Hsien Loong would not rule out further jumps. "This means that if we revise the levy for other foreign workers, we will do the same for maids."

Angry expatriate employers in the manufacturing, shipyard, hotel and construction sectors warn Singapore is in danger of "pricing itself out of the world markets. The tax employers pay on foreign workers in those industries will be raised from the present \$125 to \$140 and then to \$150 Aug 1."

Many working women complain they will have to choose between their jobs and keeping a maid to care for their children. The plight of the handicapped and sick, however, is viewed by those caring for them as the most wrenching.

"With no advocacy group to represent these people or sufficient government facilities to take them in, this levy is cruel," said a social worker. "Families who are already struggling with the realities of medical costs and accompanying emotional toll shouldn't be punished."

Recourse

Chua said she has only one recourse, drawing attention to her own plight in the hope of eliciting compassion. "I hope the government will consider people like me and give us some form of relief."

So far her pleas and the deluge of calls to the ministry from others in similar circumstances have failed to generate official sympathy.

"Our aim must be to create better paying jobs for more Singaporeans, not more and more jobs for foreigners," said a ministry spokesman. He added the foreign worker population had to be controlled to minimise long-term social costs.

Chua, 35, was stricken by an illness that doctors have been unable to diagnose despite three operations. She has lost control of her legs and her arms. Her husband, a salesman, is the only provider for the family.

Although she tried to employ Singaporean maids, they left after an average of two weeks.

Her present maid has been with her for two years, and Chua said they have developed a bond beyond the standard employer-employee relationship.

Particularly frustrating for the disabled, ailing, widows and divorcees is the slight income tax relief granted only to married career women with a foreign maid. The exemption — which allows the deduction of twice the annual levy paid for one foreign maid — is to encourage these women to have children and return to the workforce in a country of 2.6 million with a precariously shrinking population.

Many women complain they will not benefit because their salaries are so low they pay little or no income tax anyway. They question why the government does not simply exempt working women from the levy.

"It is a question of principle," said Lee, adding such exemptions would incur complicated administrative details.

"The government should help people like me," said Ng Kim Liang, a 50-year-old teacher who is the only breadwinner for a family including an 18-year-old daughter dependent on a Filipino maid who tends to the girl's personal needs and performs other household chores.

In a Chinese society, filial duty mandates that the offspring care for their ageing parents, but for some in Singapore, the levy has left them with no choice but to try and moved aged and ailing relatives to the few senior citizens homes.

Irish police arrest suspect in Delta bomb threat

NEW YORK, Jan 8, (Reuters): Delta Air Lines said yesterday that Irish police had arrested and charged a man with making threats to its transatlantic flights last week.

Atlanta-based Delta, the third largest US airline, said in a telephoned statement, "the Dublin, Ireland, police reported the arrest of a young Irish male, whom they have charged with making the threats. The police expressed satisfaction the calls were a hoax."

Colin Leonard Goodwin, 17, of Dun-

shaughlin, County Meath, was released from police custody in Dublin after posting \$1,500 bail following a brief court appearance, Irish investigators said. He was charged under the Criminal Law Act at the Brixton court house.

"He was a young man, an Irish citizen," Berry said. "They have charged him formally with the calls threatening Delta's transatlantic service," Delta spokesman Bill

Berry said. "They are satisfied it was nothing but a hoax."

The threat was one of three last week, the latest on Saturday against British Airways flight 293 from London to Miami. The other was against Northwest Airlines' December 30 flight from Paris to Detroit.

Delta and Northwest made public announcements of the threats and gave passengers the choice of changing their travel

plans. The Northwest flight landed safely in Detroit from Paris with only 28 of 130 passengers who had originally booked seats on the plane.

The British Airways Boeing 747, carrying 341 passengers and 19 crew, was diverted to Boston almost four hours into its journey after a bomb threat and was cleared to continue to Miami after search teams failed to find an explosive device.

Relatives of those killed on Pan Am flight 103 on December 21, 1988 when it was blown out of the sky over Lockerbie, Scotland, said passengers were given no warning a bomb had been placed aboard although US government and airline officials knew of a threat. The blast killed 270 people, including Lockerbie villagers.

A British Airways 747 jetliner from London left for Miami yesterday following an

unplanned overnight stay in Boston to check out a bomb threat that proved to be a false alarm.

Flight 293 departed Logan International Airport in Boston at 9:59 am and landed in Miami at 1:35 pm without incident, the airline said.

Citing security reasons, the airline refused to say whether all 341 passengers originally aboard had remained on the flight.



Princess Grace's mom dies

Margaret Kelly, mother of the late Princess Grace of Monaco and matriarch of a Philadelphia family known for its accomplishments in athletics, politics, business and entertainment, has died at the age of 91.

Kelly died Saturday at Linwood Convalescent

Centre in Linwood, New Jersey, after having suffered from pneumonia since October. She had been admitted to Linwood in 1982 after a stroke, the spokeswoman said.

Mrs Kelly suffered several strokes in recent years and never learned of the 1982 death of her daughter

Grace Kelly, the film actress who married Prince Rainier and became Princess Grace of Monaco, the Philadelphia Inquirer reported.

Picture shows the late Kelly (right) with her daughter the late Princess Grace. (Reuters wirephoto)

PEOPLE AND PLACES

MAUD, Texas: Two small children spent 12 hours trapped in a wrecked pickup truck with their dead father after the truck slid off a rural road and slammed into a tree.

A Bowie County sheriff's deputy discovered the boys, 4-year-old Joshua Mills and his 3-year-old brother Nathan, early Saturday trying to awaken their father, James Mills, 25.

"They were tapping him on the shoulder, telling him, 'daddy, wake up,'" Jones said. "I just told them, 'Your father's asleep. Let him sleep.'"

The truck apparently crashed Friday night during rain and heavy fog in Maud, about 140 miles (225 km) northeast of Dallas, and was found at the bottom of an embankment near a sharp curve in a road, Jones said. (AP)

NEW YORK: Billy Joel says he feels as if part of his family has been taken when others claim ownership of his songs.

Joel told Rolling Stone magazine in the January 9 issue that he is "not all that rich" and may, in fact, owe money.

The 40-year-old singer is touring and has just released "Storm Front," his most successful album in a decade, but he said copyright disputes over some of his past songs have made his financial status questionable.

"For better or worse, your songs are your kids. Then somebody comes along and tells you that they're not your kids anymore. The bank is going to take your kid," he said. (AP)

CICERO, Indiana: Aids victim Ryan White has recently suffered a string of physical ailments, but a New Year's holiday with pop singer Michael Jackson took his mind off his pain.

His mother, Jeanne White, said her son rested and watched movies at Jackson's Santa Barbara county, California, ranch from Thursday until Tuesday.

"They've had a really good time," Mrs White said.

White, 16, recently has suffered infections, a low-platelet count, a hernia, a protein deficiency and fluid retention.

White, a hemophiliac, contracted Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome from a blood transfusion. Four years ago, he was barred from attending Western Middle School near Kokomo by officials who feared the Aids could be transmitted to other students.

LOS ANGELES: A woman turned in by her 8-year-old daughter was sentenced to six months in jail for possessing cocaine for sale.

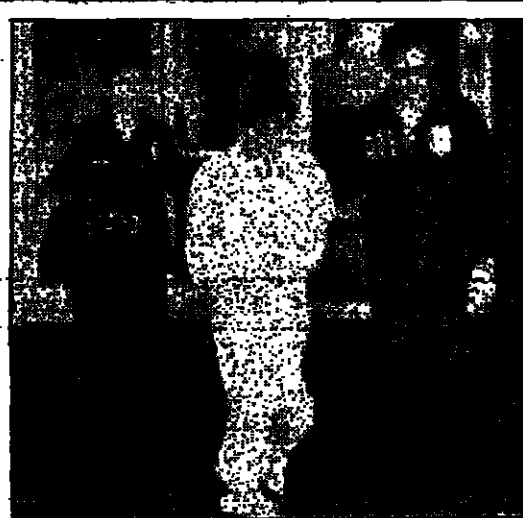
Superior court judge Kathryn Stoltz on Thursday also sentenced Carmen Garcia to three years of probation.

After attending a drug-education programme, Garcia's daughter, whose name was withheld, brought a suspicious bag of white powder to her teacher at her north Hollywood elementary school, police said.

EWING TOWNSHIP, New Jersey: At least, newspaper consumers who will not complain about the ink rubbing off on them.

Officials demonstrated a new use for old newspaper Wednesday by showing it off as barnyard bedding for animals in the state's prison agriculture programme.

Cheaper than straw and hay, shredded newspaper is less dusty and far more absorbent than traditional barnyard materials, department of corrections officials said during a demonstration at Jones farm. When mixed with manure, newspapers decompose quickly. (AP)



Alice Lundgren (centre) flanked by a police officer on one side and a federal agent on the other. (Reuters wirephoto)



Damon Lundgren being escorted to jail. (Reuters wirephoto)



Jeffery Lundgren in federal agents' custody. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mass slayings

Suspected cult leader arrested

NATIONAL CITY, California, Jan 8, (UPI): The leader of a breakaway religious sect wanted for the slayings of an Ohio family of five was arrested with his wife and 19-year-old son yesterday at a motel near the Mexican border, federal agents said.

Self-proclaimed prophet Jeffrey Lundgren was taken into custody along with his wife, Alice, and his son, Damon, by agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and National City police, said AFT special agent Andrew Vita.

The victims, Dennis Avery, 49, his wife, Cheryl, 42, and their daughters, Trina, 13, Rebecca, 9, and Karen, 5, were believed to be part of Lundgren's sect.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer quoted an unidentified police source as saying investigators believe the Averys were killed in a sacrifice performed so the rest of Lundgren's group could travel to the wilderness, where they would be cleansed and could search for a golden sword.

The Averys, shot with a .45-calibre gun, are believed to have been killed in April, authorities said.

Lundgren's splinter group was believed to consist of about 29 men, women and children before it disbanded last month, Rodriguez said.

Two of the suspects, Richard Brand, 26, Independence, Missouri, and Gregory Winship, 29, of Euclid, Ohio, surrendered Friday, authorities said. Those arrested Thursday night were identified as Ronald Luff, 29, his wife, Susan, 31, Dennis Patrick, 35, and his wife, Tonya, 33, and Debbie Olivarez, 37, all of Independence, arrested Saturday was Sharon Bluntshelley, 31, Independence.

Agents and police planned a late afternoon press conference to discuss details of their investigation and the arrests.

Yesterday's arrests bring to 11 the number of suspects taken into custody in the case. Two others, Kathryn Johnson, 36, and Daniel Craft Jr, remained at large.

Lundgren was indicted Friday in Lake County, Ohio on five counts of aggravated murder in the slayings of the family found in a barn in Kirtland, Ohio, a rural suburb of Cleveland.

The sect — a breakaway group of the reorganised church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Kirtland — was led by Lundgren of Independence, Mo., a suburb of Kansas City, authorities said.

The group broke away from the main church in 1988 when Lundgren proclaimed himself a prophet and formed his own congregation, taking about a dozen followers with him.

In April, the FBI went to the Kirtland home to investigate threats the group allegedly made against members of the reorganised church, and found pistols, rifles and semi-automatic assault weapons at the home. Following the search, however, the residents of the home vanished.

already very sick with heart conditions" when they developed pneumonia-like symptoms.

"We have no evidence so far that it is infectious," she said. "There were multiple other possible contributory factors."

Hospital staff were first alerted last Tuesday when the deaths of two infants on New Year's Eve were found to have similarities with two other deaths over the Christmas period.

Two more babies subsequently died last week also suffering from the illness, she said.

Hospital closes care unit after 6 deaths

LONDON, Jan 8, (AP): A London hospital has closed its children's intensive care unit after the deaths since Christmas of six babies from an illness similar to pneumonia.

Brompton Hospital, which specialises in treating heart and lung diseases, said yesterday that the unit was being closed temporarily to undergo a "deep cleansing," but said the cause of the illness is uncertain.

Spokeswoman Averil Slade said the six children, five of them aged under 1 year, "were

MOSCOW: World chess champion Garry Kasparov has an entire country indignant over his latest move.

Kasparov, 26, proposed in an interview in Playboy magazine's November issue that the Soviet Union sell Mongolia, an independent country and loyal ally of the Soviets, to China.

Soviet government spokesman Gennady L. Gerasimov said Wednesday that protest letters and petitions signed by thousands of Mongolians have arrived at the Soviet Embassy in Ulan Bator, capital of Mongolia, and four Soviet consulates.

He said two-hour strikes were held December 30 at Mongolian plants that make goods for the Soviet market.

In the interview, Kasparov said: "I just had the thought the other day: Why don't we sell the Kuril Islands to the Japanese? Frankly speaking, I'm not sure the islands belong to us, and the Japanese, who claim them, would give us billions and billions for them. (AP)

Great men rarely follow

NEW YORK, Jan 8, (AP): History demonstrates that rarely do two powerful leaders follow each other, but that relatively ineffectual leaders, often do.

That concept is the heart of what Eugene Jennings calls the L-principle (L for "leadership"), and it suggests intriguing possibilities for the future of the United States, the Soviet Union and much of Europe.

What type of person, for example, is likely to follow Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev? Will the leadership of Eastern European nations be strong or weak? Can US President George Bush be a powerful leader so soon after his predecessor, Ronald Reagan?

Jennings, professor emeritus at Michigan State University, is author of the landmark volume "Anatomy of Leadership," written in 1961, which traces leadership back to the Egyptian Pharaohs, and "Princes, Heroes and Supermen."

Advise

In addition, he has advised corporate chairmen and sometimes political candidates on how to conduct their affairs, the better to demonstrate their leadership.

As he interprets the L-principle, powerful leaders come forth to fill voids, rising in response to circumstances and needs of people. But when they are through they often leave another void behind them.

Into this void step what Jennings calls representative officials, or people who represent the popular thinking of their constituency. Unlike the powerful giants, these folks and their ideas aren't above or ahead of the people.

"In Jennings' view, former US President Dwight Eisenhower was a representative leader rather than a giant. He was followed by John Kennedy, who Jennings feels was emerging as a giant when he was assassinated, and then his successor Lyndon Johnson became one.

"Johnson came forth and filled the void," Jennings said. "For better or worse, he changed the direction and character of what the country had been under Eisenhower."

Under former US President Jimmy Carter, Jennings said, the country lost confidence to do anything right, making conditions ripe for Ronald Reagan to come galloping in on a white horse.

Does that mean George Bush and the United States are in for a dull time?

Not necessarily, said Jennings, appearing to bend the L-principle just a bit. In his first term Reagan was a giant, he says, an example of the wedding of the individual and the needs of the people. "In his second, he wasn't."

Interprets

After Reagan, "we should be in a void, defined as the absence of a need or condition for strong-willed chiefs," Jennings said. But as he interprets the principle, Reagan actually created his own void in his final four years, leaving room for Bush to achieve the status of giant, should events conspire.

It would be, he concedes, a rare but not unprecedented situation.

Former President Franklin Roosevelt was a giant of a leader in his early years, changing the direction and character of the country, but he was worn and torn by the time he died in office nearly 16 years later, Jennings said.

With the world turning over, as he puts it, and democracy sweeping old regimes from power, Jennings believes conditions are now ripe for a strong president to exert his will. Bush, he believes, could become a giant.

In Jennings' interpretation, Britain's late Prime Minister Winston Churchill was a giant, but his successor Anthony Eden was not.

Soviet dictator Josef Stalin was a giant, but he was followed by a series of less powerful officials. Gorbachev filled the void they created and, "depending on how irreversible his initiatives are," he will be a giant.

That brings up the future. The L-principle suggests that Gorbachev will leave a void, to be filled by the so-called representative or transitional types. First, however, Gorbachev must nail down his reforms.

Actor succumbs to Aids

Charleson dies

LONDON, Jan 8, (AP): Actor Ian Charleson, who starred in the film "Chariots of Fire," has died after a battle with Aids, his agent said yesterday. Charles was 40.

The Scottish actor, who had recently played "Hamlet" at London's National Theatre, died at his London home on Saturday evening, "following a courageous struggle with the Aids virus," Michael Whitehall said. He said the cause of death was septicemia, a disease caused by micro-organisms in the blood.

Charleson, who received critical praise for a series of stage roles, achieved international fame in the 1981 film "Chariots of Fire" in which he played Scottish Olympic athlete Eric Liddell, a Christian missionary whose religious commitment took precedence over competition.

Liddell refused to participate in games on a Sunday, the Christian sabbath.

The film won the Academy Award for best picture.

At Charleson's last performance, nine weeks ago, he received a standing ovation from the audience.

Said Whitehall: "It was clear that he was exhausted but his courage, not only in being on that stage but giving us the performance of his life, left our applause and cheers seeming very inadequate."

"We have lost a much-loved, greatly respected and hugely talented young actor."

The son of a printer, Charleson was born in Edinburgh Aug 11, 1949. He won a scholarship to the capital's royal high school and went on to study architecture at Edinburgh University.

His interest in acting developed. Charleson once said, when he discovered he had the ability "to make people laugh and make them cry."

He studied at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art and began his stage career in London with a two-year stint at the Young Vic Theatre from 1972 to 1974. His performances with the national theatre includes roles in "Julius Caesar" and "Volpone" in 1977.

"Guys and Dolls" in 1984.

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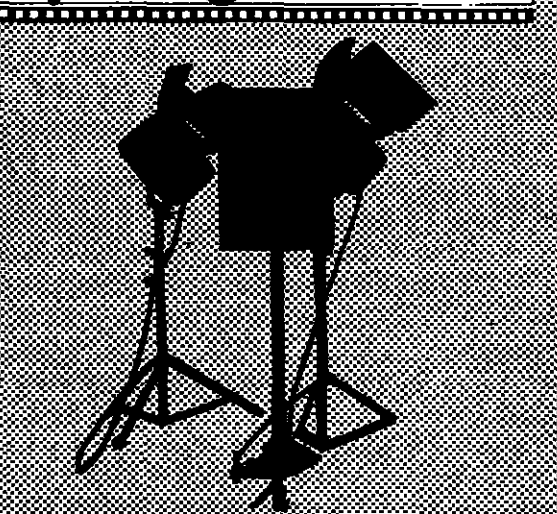
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Bush playfully ducks reporters' questions about US warships in Colombia, by hiding behind his sister Nancy Ellis. (Reuters wirephoto)

US denies it is trying to blockade Colombia

Bogota opts out of sea operation

BOGOTA, Jan 8, (AP): The government has said it will not participate with the US military in a drug interdiction operation in international waters off the Caribbean Sea, according to a published communiqué.

The United States had said it was stepping up air and sea patrols in international waters off Colombia's coast to try to reduce the amount of cocaine smuggled northward.

The US embassy in Bogota said that the operation would be "an increase of what has been done in the past" and would be carried out "far from the Colombian coast."

President Virgilio Barco's government said in the communiqué, published yesterday by the newspaper El Tiempo, that it would not authorize US operations in its waters. It said it also would not assist US patrols in the Caribbean.

The government has not participated, nor will it participate, in any joint operation with US military forces, air or naval, in the international waters of the Caribbean Sea," the communiqué said.

Calls to the presidential press office to verify the report were not answered late yesterday. US President George Bush's administration has not said how many ships and aircraft will participate in the drug interdiction operation, though the aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy will reportedly be involved.

The US government has not

said when the operations are to begin.

Bush, questioned by reporters in Washington, turned aside a question yesterday about whether he was positioning the Kennedy off the coast of Colombia to help intercept drug supplies by sea and by air.

"I will address myself ... to that question at a future date," the President said.

At a White House reception yesterday night, Defence Secretary Dick Cheney declined to say where the Kennedy or other ships were, but told reporters, "we're always active down in the Caribbean anyway."

Cheney said he expects that within two weeks "we will announce in detail what additional steps we're taking in dealing with the narcotics problem." He said he expects the Latin nations and "anybody

interested in halting the flow of illicit drugs into the United States will be supportive."

It is estimated that drug cartels in Colombia are responsible for processing and smuggling 80 per cent of the cocaine sold in the United States.

Soon after Barco intensified the government's struggle against drug traffickers on Aug 18, the United States pledged \$65 million in military aid to help the fight.

US officials have said there are between 50 and 100 US military personnel in the country to help train Colombian security forces to use the donated equipment.

The Barco administration months ago ruled out the use of US military forces to fight drug traffickers within Colombia's borders.

Cheney last night defended the United States' right to station

warships off the Colombian coast to fight drug traffickers but declined to outline specific strategy in the war on drugs.

A US aircraft carrier and cruiser are heading to South American waters to begin monitoring air and sea drug traffic moving out of Colombia, defence officials said yesterday.

They stressed there were no plans for navy fighter planes to shoot down suspicious aircraft.

Cheney and Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, stressed last night that the presence of US warships off Colombia is not a blockade of that nation as part of the Bush administration's war on drugs.

President Alan Garcia said yesterday he will attend the February drug summit with Bush if American troops are first withdrawn from Panama.

Soweto defies to re-enroll dropouts

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 8, (Reuters): Teachers and parents in South Africa's biggest black township, worried by bad school-leaving examination results, began a campaign today to re-enroll children in defiance of government rules.

The government bans re-admittance of pupils who have failed matriculation twice and those deemed "dropouts" by authorities. Parents and teachers in Johannesburg's Soweto township also demanded some matriculation examination papers be re-marked, saying the poor results were caused mainly by underfunding and overcrowding in black schools.

The measures were decided at a meeting yesterday of 1,000 teachers, parents and pupils organized by anti-apartheid activists in the township of two million people.

Meeting organizer David Myepa said families would challenge schools to re-enroll pupils, defying government rules. Enrolment for the 1990 school year began today and the first semester starts on Wednesday.

The meeting was called in response to an announcement that 95 per cent of South Africa's whites, but only 42 per cent of all blacks, had passed the exam. Fewer than 30 per cent of students in Soweto who took the exam passed.

Myepa told Reuters he estimated 35,000 students were loitering on Soweto's streets because they had been refused schooling.

"The government says they are troublemakers who are on the streets out of choice. We say most of them are there because they are refused admittance to schools," he said.

Soweto schools have often been the scene of clashes between police and pupils protesting against courses they say prepare them for a life of subservience to whites.

The campaign is backed by some Soweto student groups who have altered the demands they made at the height of mid-1980s protests that students put "liberation before education."

"Part of your contribution for the national struggle for liberation is to educate yourselves," a student representative told the conference yesterday.

Anti-government educationists say the high failure rate is explained by the fact that Pretoria spends more per head on educating the white minority than the black majority.

A severe shortage of classrooms, equipment and books also plays a role — the independent South African Institute of Race Relations estimates that one million black children around South Africa have no schools to go to.

Pretoria spends the equivalent of \$800 a year to educate a white child against \$220 on a black child. Bernard Lowe from the government ministry responsible for black education said the high failure rate was caused by the rapid growth in the number of students and the prolonged disruption at many schools over the years which made teaching and preparation for examinations difficult.

The South African Institute of Race Relations reported recently that 196 white schools had been closed in the past 10 years because of the declining white birthrate, and that remaining white schools had more than 250,000 vacant places.

9 killed in Natal unrest

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 8, (Reuters): Nine people were killed in fighting between rival black activist organisations in South Africa's Natal province at the weekend, police said today.

Three of the fatalities came during clashes between two groups of people near Patensville village yesterday. Police fired shotguns and rifles to stop the fight and a fourth man was killed, police said without elaborating.

Five people, including a woman shot by a group of men who set fire to her house, were killed in separate incidents.

Police rarely identify the political affiliation of people involved in the Natal clashes, in which more than 2,000 people have been killed in almost three years of unrest.

US war on drugs Little progress made

WASHINGTON, Jan 8, (AP): Despite the White House war on drugs, fewer than 10 per cent of the nation's cities report making headway in their local battles, according to a survey released today.

"There's been a lot of talk about drugs coming out of Washington, and our city leaders are now sending back a message — a message that it's time for Washington to get a front-line report on what's happening and what's needed," said Alan Beals, executive director of the National League of Cities.

"The drug issue must be a national priority, local officials are saying, because they cannot beat it on their own," Beals said in releasing the study.

Officials in 58 per cent of cities surveyed said drug problems had worsened in their communities over the past year. Another 31 per cent said the magnitude of the drug problem remained the same, while only 9 per cent reported progress.

The league surveyed mayors and council members from 314 cities selected randomly from the 2,461 cities with a population of 10,000 or more. The survey included questions on a variety of topics.

Officials in 39 per cent of the cities said they would have to raise local taxes this year. Nearly half expect to increase various user fees, and almost two-thirds say their city's spending will increase, Beals said.

The league survey was conducted by telephone in November and early December by the centre for urban studies at Wayne State University in Detroit. The league said the results have a margin of error of plus or minus 5.5 per cent.

Drugs led the list of top concerns of city officials. One in five said that if they could meet with President George Bush on any topic, they would focus on drugs.

"Clearly our local leaders believe there is a need for national leadership and a stronger commitment of national resources to help eradicate the poisonous and violent drug culture that has invaded our cities," Beals said.

The survey, he said, found discontent among urban leaders with the federal government's allocation of money to fight drugs. The \$2.2 billion in federal drug assistance goes to the states, he said, "but it's needed in our cities where the war against drugs is being fought."

ANC wants same status

'Lift curbs for talks'

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 8, (Agencies): The outlawed African National Congress said today it would enter talks with South Africa's white rulers only if granted the same political freedom as the governing National Party.

A statement, issued to mark the organisation's 78th anniversary, said the ANC would seek to intensify its guerrilla campaign until its conditions were met for talks.

The statement was clearer than some previous ones in leaving open the possibility for ANC-South Africa talks, even while apartheid remains in place. But it also appeared to quash speculation that the ANC would suspend violence as a means of increasing pressure on the government to make concessions.

ANC guerrillas have refrained from most violence for more than a year.

President FW de Klerk, since taking office in mid-August, has eased restrictions on black opposition activity, freed several jailed ANC leaders, and offered to negotiate a new constitution that would extend political rights to blacks while protecting white interests.

The ANC, although reducing

Liberia soldiers did not massacre

MONROVIA, Jan 8, (Reuters): Liberians who witnessed a violent attempt to overthrow President Samuel Doe denied yesterday that the army had killed a large number of civilians while putting down the unrest.

Residents of the northeast border region of Nimba told national television soldiers sent to the area in the past two weeks had behaved well and had arrived "to safeguard their interests and their lives."

Several Liberian refugees who fled to neighbouring Ivory Coast to escape the fighting told reporters the army burned down villages, killed a large number of civilians and chased others into the bush.

Liberian officials and other refugees have blamed rebels for the deaths which could number in the hundreds. Some refugees said tribal rivalries were fueling the conflict in Nimba county, scene of abortive uprisings against Doe in 1985 and 1988.

General Edward Smith, commanding army operations against the rebels, on Friday accused them of killing more than 200 unarmed civilians, including women and children.

He said rebels were urging the population to join them and when they refused they were terrorised and shot.

The situation was now under control and only one Liberian soldier had been killed, he added.

Refugees in Ivory Coast, most of whom arrived after an army counter-offensive on December 29, reported seeing several dead soldiers.

Doe, who seized power in a 1980 coup, has called on people to help the army hunt down rebels he says may be pursued into Ivorian territory.

He has accused Ivory Coast of harbouring the rebels, including their self-proclaimed leader Charles Taylor.

The Ivorian government denies supporting the rebels but says it is offering humanitarian assistance to about 10,000 refugees.



Last respects

Fellow sisters gather around the casket containing the remains of Sister Maria Oroz who was stabbed to death by an intruder into the convent. A bricksmen broke into the convent, stabbed one nun to death and injured another. The man was overpowered by other nuns and held until police arrived. (Reuters wirephoto)

Millions squandered on payroll padding of Noriega's supporters: Sabotage delays court reforms

LOS ANGELES, Jan 8, (UPI): Records that escaped systematic destruction by fleeing supporters of toppled dictator Manuel Noriega indicate hundreds of millions of dollars was squandered on salaries of political cronies whose only work was to collect paychecks, it was reported yesterday.

The Panamanian justice system, corrupted during 21 years of military rule, is being overhauled to settle disputes and to try a growing docket of corruption cases. But the court reform has been delayed and complicated by the sabotage of supreme court records the day after the US invasion began Dec 20.

Investigators with the new US-installed government

have prepared more than 300 cases of corruption against Noriega officials accused of pilfering the treasury through payroll padding and a variety of other embezzlement schemes, the Los Angeles Times said.

With Noriega in jail in the United States, the new regime has turned to dealing with the mess he left behind and files indicate the level of corruption was far greater than imagined.

"Don't congratulate me," the new mayor of Panama City, Guillermo Cochez, said. "It's all craziness here. The public administration of the Noriega regime was based only on seeing how much they could steal. And what they stole was incredible."

After a week in city hall, Cochez asked the new prosecutor to file charges in two corruption cases against the former mayor, Filma Noriega, who formerly claimed to be related to Manuel Noriega but no longer does.

Cochez said Mayor Noriega for the past four years personally raked off half the municipal tax payments delivered to city hall each January, about \$10,000 every day of the month.

Court workers told of seeing supreme court magistrates setting fire to their own files. A blaze swept through the court offices in the Justice Ministry headquarters, destroying most of the case records.

"What the fire didn't destroy the fire hoses did," said

Cesar Quintana, one of eight newly appointed magistrates on the nine-member court. "This wasn't the work of common looters but high-level officials. They did this to make the new court's work more difficult and to destroy old cases of justice being rigged and sold out."

The Justice Ministry building, now abandoned, is filled with computers, copiers, fax machines and filing cabinets systematically smashed with axes and iron bars.

Despite the sabotage, about 40 tonnes of files seized from government offices and homes of Noriega supporters have been taken to US military bases in Panama for scrutiny by the CIA and US Drug Enforcement Administration.

US killed 1,200, claims Jackson

Noriega taken by surprise

WASHINGTON, Jan 8, (UPI): Invading US paratroopers unknowingly may have witnessed Manuel Noriega fleeing a hotel as they dropped from the night sky onto an airport landing zone in Panama City last month, a published report said yesterday.

Meanwhile, black civil rights activist Jesse Jackson charged today that the United States killed at least 1,200 Panamanian civilians last month, saying this was more people than the Chinese killed in Tiananmen Square.

The US Army has said 23 US soldiers and about 300 Panamanian soldiers were killed in the US invasion of Panama. The US southern command estimated 250 civilians died.

The Chinese crushed a student demonstration at Tiananmen Square in Beijing on June 4 and "slaughtered" 10,000 "peaceful" protesters, "perhaps thousands" of "protesters." No final toll was ever released by the Chinese government.

Jackson, appearing on US television, renewed a charge that has angered the administration of President George Bush.

Representative Henry Hyde, an Illinois Republican who appeared on the show with Jackson and has visited Panama since the invasion, disputed Jackson's figures. "We were down there talking to the people in those communities. There's no evidence for that at all," said Hyde.

The Noriega scramble showed, said one US official, that he didn't believe an invasion was possible despite watching television reporting large US troop movements. "He just didn't take it seriously until he saw the parachutes in the sky," said an official.

Former Israeli spy master Mike Harari said Panama had been on alert for a year for a possible US invasion and he warned Noriega that "the ground is burning" just before the attack finally came.

Noriega, "understood, of course, that something was going to happen," Harari added in an interview published today by the Yediot Aharonot daily.

Harari has staunchly denied claims by US officials that he was a top aide to Noriega, acknowledging only in an Israeli television interview Saturday that they were friends.

The Washington Post reported that military officials believe a half-dressed Noriega made a mad dash from the hotel to a waiting getaway car as hundreds of US troops landed at Tocumen airport in the early morning hours of Dec 20.

"They (at least two paratroopers) saw the headlights of the car as it turned and went the other way," said an unnamed member of Congress briefed on the US invasion, called operation "Just Cause," during a visit to Panama City last week.

A Noriega confidant and mistress told officials that the strongman had gone to the hotel to meet a prostitute.



Former members of Noriega's PDF line up in Panama City for garbage duty. (Reuters wirephoto)



Noriega's Danish girlfriend, Tina Branstup in a disco in Copenhagen dancing with Danish playboy Jan Kozon. (Reuters wirephoto)

Noriega family wants to leave Passage sought

PANAMA CITY, Jan 8, (Reuters): The wife and daughters of deposed strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega, still holed up in the Cuban embassy official said yesterday.

Felicitad Siano de Noriega, her three adult daughters, a son-in-law and a four-month-old grandson took refuge in the Cuban ambassador's residence after the Dec 20 US invasion that removed her husband from power.

"We asked the Foreign Ministry for safe conduct passes (out of the country) on Jan 5 but we are still waiting for a reply," Cuba's Consul-General in Panama, Jose Luis Mendez, told Reuters.

He said Mrs Noriega had not yet made up her mind where she would go. Cuba and the Dominican Republic were possibilities, he said.

The husband of Noriega's daughter Sandra is from the Dominican Republic. Cuban officials said the Dominican Republic had indicated in press reports that it was prepared to give asylum to Mrs Noriega.

The newspaper reported that for the next four days, US forces found and lost Noriega's track several times, the dictator slipping in and out of safehouses throughout Panama City before seeking sanctuary at the Vatican Embassy.

Even at that point, the top representative of the Papal ministry said he unsuccessfully tried to contact a US general to

tip him to Noriega's whereabouts before the embassy officials picked up the most-wanted dictator at a local snack bar.

Monsignor Jose Sebastian Laboa, the Vatican representative in Panama City, said he was not eager to provide refuge to Noriega and intended to give US troops enough warning to capture the deposed dictator before embassy personnel met him.

Even at that point, the top representative of the Papal ministry said he unsuccessfully tried to contact a US general to

Military had role in priest killings

SAN SALVADOR, Jan 8, (AP): An official investigation has uncovered military involvement in the November massacre of six Roman Catholic priests suspected of sympathising with leftist rebels. President Alfredo Cristiani said.

"It has been determined there was involvement of some elements of the armed forces" in the slayings, Cristiani said last night over radio and television.

In addition to the priests, who were educators at a Jesuit-run university in San Salvador, the assailants killed the clergyman's housekeeper and her 15-year-old daughter five days after leftist rebels began the largest offensive of their 10-year insurgency.

Cristiani did not specify who was implicated, nor did he indicate the units, rank or number of those responsible.

However, the head of the joint chiefs of staff said earlier last night that members of an elite battalion had been confined to base and were being questioned in connection with the slayings.

No military officer has been convicted of a politically motivated slaying since civil war erupted in late 1979, though the army has been linked to right-wing death squads blamed for the murders of thousands of suspected leftists in the early 1980s.

US authorities have indicated that continued bipartisan support for the rightist Cristiani government depends to a great extent on finding out who killed the priests and punishing them.

Cristiani said a special commission of honour, including high-ranking military men and civilian lawyers, had been created to expose the truth about the Nov 16 massacre "in its complete magnitude."

The president said the commission would work with investigators to "make sure justice is done" and promised punishment "down to the last person implicated."

Cristiani has also offered a \$250,000 reward for information leading to the murderers' arrest and conviction.

The slayings of the six priests prompted some US legislators to question aid to the Cristiani administration, which took office in June, succeeding the centrist government of Jose Napoleon Duarte.

Failed The massacre also recalled the March 1980 assassination of Oscar Arnulfo Romero, archbishop of San Salvador, who was killed by a sniper as he said Mass. Despite available evidence and testimony, the Salvadoran judicial system has failed to bring Romero's killer to justice.

Cristiani asked the Salvadoran people to avoid speculation while investigators carry out their work. Agents from the United States and Spain have aided in the probe and Scotland Yard detectives arrived this past weekend to take part.

The head of the joint chiefs of staff, Col Rene Emilio Ponce, said yesterday that 47 soldiers from the elite Atlacatl Battalion, including two officers, had been confined to base for questioning in the case but were not under arrest.

Unclear It was unclear whether those soldiers and officers were the ones referred to by Cristiani.

Ponce said the 47 were members of the unit that conducted a search of the Jesuit priests' residence at the order's Central American University two days before the priests were slain.

Asked if the men were implicated by evidence other than the fact that they conducted the search, Ponce declined to comment.

A university employee has said she saw men in military uniforms outside the residence shortly before the shots that killed the priests were heard. The woman, Lucia Barrera, has been taken for her own safety to the United States, where she is under the protection of the Jesuits.

The priests and educators — Ignacio Ellacuria, Ignacio Martin-Baro, Segundo Montes, Amado Lopez, Juan Ramon Moreno and Joaquin Lopez Lopez — were taken from their beds in their on-campus residence before dawn and killed. Their housekeeper, Julia Ramos, and her 15-year-old daughter Celina, also were slain.

Ellacuria was the university's rector, Martin-Baro its vice-rector.

The guerrillas have battled a succession of US-backed governments they say serve as civilian facades for repressive military rule. The far right had consistently denounced the Central American University's left-leaning Jesuits as subversive ideologues.

'Report coup recruiters'

Filipino troops threatened of prosecution

MANILA, Jan 8, (Reuters): The Philippine Army chief today warned troops they faced prosecution if they failed to report efforts to recruit them for any future coup attempt. Rebel soldiers threatened to strike again.

In a directive to the 65,000-strong Philippine Army, Major-General Manuel Cacanando said neutrality could not be tolerated and orders any soldier with information about another

mutiny to report it to a superior officer.

He said some troops knew about the December revolt against President Corazon Aquino in advance but "kept that relevant information about the planned rebellion to themselves thinking, perhaps, that it would be better to remain silent and neutral on the matter."

He said it was the duty of every soldier to report such information and that those failing to do

so would be charged with being an accessory, even if they did not take part.

Asked about rumours of another coup attempt, Aquino told a news conference the government was "taking all necessary measures in order to protect the citizenry and to make sure that the military continues to stay loyal to our constitution and to the government."

Fugitive coup leader ex-Colonel Gregorio Honasan war-

ned in a letter published in a Manila newspaper today of another military revolt soon, calling Aquino's New Year's Eve cabinet revamp "a dance of thieves."

Jose Galang, acting editor of the Manila Chronicle, said a citizens' group led by former president Diosdado Macapagal met with publishers and editors last weekend and asked them to join in a campaign to preserve Philippine democracy.

Talks on US bases in spring

Aquino keeping options open

MANILA, Jan 8, (UPI): President Corazon Aquino said today she expects exploratory talks on the future of important US military bases in the Philippines to begin either in March or April.

Aquino, told a news conference she would meet with Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus and other members of the Philippine negotiating team shortly to discuss a date for the talks.

"We are thinking maybe in terms of March and April," Aquino said.

The 1947 lease on the six US facilities, including the sprawling Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Complex, expires in 1991. Any new agreement will have to be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Senate, where anti-base sentiment is strong.

Aquino said she was keeping her options open, dismissing a reported suggestion by Manglapus the facilities, manned by 17,000 servicemen plus dependents, could be phased out.



A member of Special Weapons And Tactics (Swat) unit explains to his comrades how to use the M16 rifle at Manila military headquarters. (Reuters wirephoto)

Govt charged with rebellion

'Dance of thieves'

MANILA, Jan 8, (UPI): The local governments secretary today filed rebellion charges against a northern governor who has threatened to defy efforts to discipline him for publicly supporting last month's coup attempt against President Corazon Aquino.

The charges against Governor Rodolfo Aguinaldo of Cagayan province, 200 miles (320 km) north of Manila, were contained in a letter sent by Local Governments Secretary Luis Santos to the Justice Department.

Prosecutors will conduct an inquest and decide if the charges warrant formal trial before a civilian criminal court.

Aguinaldo was a former constabulary colonel previously assigned to the security force of then defence minister Juan Ponce Enrile, who is now an opposition senator. Enrile himself is facing rebellion charges in connection with the Dec 1-7 coup attempt.

On the first day of the rebellion, Aguinaldo called radio

station DZRH to announce he was sending armour and soldiers to support dissenting troops mounting the sixth and worst uprising in Aquino's almost four years as president. The rebellion left 119 people dead and nearly 600 wounded.

Aguinaldo, who has been accused of torturing dissenters during the regime of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, said he would summon "people power" to fight efforts by the government to discipline him.

Santos said he would serve a 60-day suspension order on Aguinaldo and dismissed suggestions that the government feared the Cagayan governor, who has a private army of hill tribesmen whom he had trained to fight communist guerrillas while he was in the constabulary.

"I do not think he is in a position to defy the lawful orders of this department," Santos said. He added the military was fully prepared to enforce the suspension order.

US Ambassador Nicholas Platt said he will head the US panel in exploratory talks, but that a permanent negotiator from Washington will take over from him once formal discussions begin.

The United States has agreed to provide the Philippines \$962 million in aid in the last two years of the pact.

Senior US Congressmen and senators who visited Manila late last year have ruled out a bigger compensation package in return for continued use of the facilities, citing budgetary constraints and moves even in the United States to close down a number of facilities.

The government will seek American help in converting US military bases to civilian use instead of pushing for higher rent in this year's bases talks, a senior official of the Department of Foreign Affairs said today.

"Our national interest may no longer lie in bigger compensation but rather in seeking US assistance in converting the bases for civilian use," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The official did not say what forms of assistance Manila would ask of Washington, but added, "in the next five years, we will need every penny for this (conversion)."

A committee created by President Aquino is studying various alternative uses for the US facilities, including converting Clark Air Base into an international airport and the Subic Bay Naval Base into a ship-repair facility.

The lease on the facilities expires in 1991 and extending it would require a treaty approved by the Senate, where anti-bases sentiment is strong.

The foreign affairs official said the democratic movement in Eastern Europe has opened options for the United States regarding the future of its bases in the Philippines.

"If these things (in Eastern Europe) continue, the US may revise its forward deployment strategy because... (this) is based on the cold war situation," the official said.

"Who knows, with these developments in Europe, maybe they will no longer like (keeping the bases)," the official said.

"Another factor is that it was shown in the latest coup attempt that the bases can also serve Filipino interest, not just the American interest," the official said.

US F-4 Phantom jets flew air cover for loyal troops on Dec 1, when about 3,000 rebel soldiers launched the coup attempt.

The official noted that with the opening of Eastern Europe, there would be more recipients of US foreign aid, and the Philippines might receive a smaller share.

At least 13 people were killed and four others wounded in clashes between government troops and guerrillas over a three-day period, authorities said today.

A military report said communist guerrillas using a land mine blasted a military convoy today in the town of Pamplona, 150 miles (240 km) southeast of Manila, sparking a gun battle that left seven rebels and one soldier dead.

On Mindanao island, 500 miles (800 km) south of Manila, at least four Muslim separatist rebels were killed in a 40-minute gun battle Saturday with government troops, the military said.

Khmer rebels make gains

BANGKOK, Jan 8, (AP): Cambodia's defence minister has admitted that guerrillas are advancing in areas near the Thai border, and said his forces are abandoning some places to concentrate defences in major towns and roads.

"The enemies have been gradually advancing in their attacks against a number of our positions along the border. To be sincere, we have lost some positions," Gen. Tea Banh said.

"We cannot stay in every village," he said. "We have to abandon some and keep some strategic ones. This is in order to concentrate our forces so that they... have sufficient strength in opposing the enemies in battles."

The general's admission came in an interview carried yesterday by the government's official radio. A transcript seen today in Bangkok did not say when the interview took place.

He did not mention fighting in the northwestern town of Battambang, Cambodia's second-largest city. Khmer Rouge guerrillas claimed in a radio broadcast yesterday they had set the city ablaze, forcing government troops to call for reinforcements.

The report could not be verified and some previous Khmer Rouge claims have proven exaggerated. It would be one of the most important clashes of the 11-year-old war between three guerrilla groups and the government Vietnam installed after invading Cambodia in late 1978.

The guerrillas have intensified their attacks since late September, when Vietnam said it had withdrawn the last of its troops.

Tea Banh said it was difficult to hold onto areas along the Thai border because the guerrillas have sanctuaries in Thailand while government forces must travel hundreds of kilometres, (miles) to reach this front.

He said the captured areas included Banteay Chmar, Kdol and Anlong Veng. The Khmer Rouge said they seized Anlong Veng on Dec 20 and said the district town had protected government defences along the Dang Re mountains that roughly coincide with the Thai-Cambodian border.

Tea Banh said authorities were building trenches and had organised village militiamen into medium-size forces to help regular troops.

He said the government still managed to defend the capital of Banteay Meanchey province in the northwest, as well as important district and roads. He denied guerrilla claims to control a stretch of route 5, a main highway crossing the length of the country to Phnom Penh.

He said the guerrillas were trying to seize Banteay Meanchey, Siem Reap and Battambang provinces but their war remained one of sabotage and retreat with no large-scale offensives.

"The main thing for us now is to defend at all costs townships, major communications networks and a number of passes," he said.

45 rescued

5 kids die as cruiser sinks

SYDNEY, Jan 8, (AP): Five children died when a chartered pleasure launch capsized today in Nelson Bay, 125 miles (200 km) north of Sydney, police said.

Emergency workers and water police rescued 45 survivors from the capsized 33-foot (10-metre) cruiser following the accident, which occurred shortly after 6.00 pm (0700 GMT).

The survivors, suffering from minor injuries and mild hypothermia, were taken to a clinic at Nelson Bay, police said.

The names and nationalities of the victims were not immediately available.



Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu (foreground) and his wife Sachiko wave to well wishers with their accompanying party atop the ramp of their special plane upon departure to Europe at Tokyo's Haneda airport. (Reuters wirephoto)

Seven-nation tour

Kaifu for Europe

TOKYO, Jan 8, (AP): Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu left today for West Germany on the first leg of a seven-nation European tour aimed at strengthening Japan's ties with Europe.

Kaifu left aboard a chartered flight on an 11-day trip that also will include visits to Belgium, France, Britain, Italy, Poland and Hungary, as well as the Vatican.

The tour is widely seen here as an effort to demonstrate the prime minister's expertise in foreign affairs ahead of parliamentary elections expected in February.

In meetings with leaders of Poland and Hungary, the prime minister is expected to announce Japanese economic assistance to the two Eastern European countries totalling \$1.95 billion, including \$500 million in united loans to each nation, local news reports have said.

Before his departure, Kaifu said at a gathering of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party that in

addition to providing funds to Eastern Europe, Japan would also promote personnel and cultural exchanges.

"By not just extending funds, Japan's positive co-operation in ways such as personnel, technology and cultural exchanges will directly contribute to peace and stability not only in Europe, but also in Asia, the Pacific region and the world," the LDP official quoted Kaifu as saying.

A Foreign Ministry official, who spoke anonymously, said specific aid figures for Poland and Hungary were still under consideration and would be announced during Kaifu's visits to the two countries.

The official denied a report today in the English-language Maimichi daily news that Kaifu will tell West European leaders Japan plans to lift sanctions it imposed on China following the military crackdown on the pro-democracy movement in Tiananmen Square last June.

Kaifu is to meet tomorrow in Bonn with West German Chan-

cellor Helmut Kohl for talks likely to focus on the issue of reunification of the two Germanys and on a new world order to replace cold war relations.

After a visit tomorrow afternoon to the Berlin Wall, partly demolished last month following a sweeping democratic demonstrations, Kaifu plans to deliver a speech explaining Japan's diplomatic response to changing East-West relations. Kyodo news service said.

He will make a one-day visit to Belgium on Wednesday, where he will meet with King Baudouin, with Belgium Prime Minister Wilfried Martens, and with EEC commission president Jacques Delors before travelling to Paris.

On Thursday, Kaifu will meet with French government officials, including President Mitterrand and Prime Minister Michel Rocard to discuss the 1992 integration of European markets as well as East-West relations.

Seoul radicals protest visit

SEOUL, Jan 8, (AP): Radical students hurling firebombs burned effigies of US Ambassador Donald Gregg and President Roh Tae-Woo today in the provincial city of Kwangju to protest Gregg's visit there, news reports said.

Another group of 100 protesters threw human excrement and tear-gas powder near a police station several hundred metres (yards) from a US Cultural Centre residence where Gregg visited, the reports said.

The ambassador apparently did not see any of the protests. About 500 radical students yelling anti-American slogans battled 900 riot police with firebombs and rocks at Kwangju's Chosun University, reported Yonhap, the South Korean news agency.

Fierce fighting continued for an hour inside the campus after riot troopers backed by two armoured vans firing volleys of tear-gas shells moved in to break up a rally. Yonhap and newspapers reported. No injuries or arrests were reported.

"Gregg came here under a scheme with Roh Tae-Woo trying to unilaterally shelve the Kwangju issue," yelled a student leader at the rally, quoted by Yonhap.

Gregg is the first US ambassador to visit Kwangju since a 1980 civil uprising in which 200 civilians died and 1,500 were wounded, by official count.

His predecessors avoided the city, apparently for fear of anti-American violence. Many Kwangju citizens believe Washington condoned the mobilisation of Korean soldiers to put down the uprising, despite repeated denials by Washington.

Three dissident groups issued statements opposing his visit. The ambassador invited dissidents and leading citizens to dinner to explain Washington's position on Kwangju, but Yonhap said many stayed away in protest.

Last week, the US embassy issued a statement rejecting former South Korean president Chun Doo-Hwan's reference to an alleged US role in the Kwangju incident.

Chun said in parliamentary testimony Dec 31 that he, then an army general, decided on the military suppression of the uprising after receiving information from the United States that the military threat from communist North Korea was increasing.

The US embassy said the United States did not see any evidence of heightened threats from North Korea at the time.

Brunei yet to free 5 who took part in 1962 revolt

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 8, (Reuters): Brunei is still holding at least five political detainees despite freeing six people over the weekend who were detained 27 years ago for an abortive revolt, an exiled rebel leader said today.

Zaini Haji Ahmad, vice-president of the banned Brunei People's Party, which staged that long-ago revolt, urged Brunei's ruler, Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, to release the detainees.

Zaini, 55, speaking to reporters in his exile home in Malaysia, also called for an end to the state of

emergency imposed since the December, 1962, revolt.

He and the banned party's leader Azahari Mahmud, led 4,000 rebels in the failed attempt to overthrow Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddin of Brunei, a British protectorate that gained independence in 1984.

The revolt, launched after the Sultan postponed the first session of a newly elected legislative council, was put down by British-led Gurkha troops rushed in from Singapore.

The party had won all 16 elected seats in the

council poll that year and proposed forming a single independent state made up of Brunei and the British colonial territories of Sarawak and north Borneo (now Sabah).

The revolt remains the most bitter chapter in the modern history of Brunei, an immensely rich country of 230,000 people on Borneo Island.

Zaini said the five people held included three former party members who were detained when they returned to Brunei from exile in March, 1989, in hopes of receiving a royal pardon.

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300 Azeris brave freezing temp to stage protest

NICOSIA, Jan 8, (Reuters): Some 300 Soviet Muslims braved freezing temperatures to stage an Islamic solidarity demonstration on the Araks river border with Iran, the Iranian News Agency Irna reported today.

It said Soviet border guards in the Nakhichevan district watched the four-hour gathering yesterday but did not intervene. It was the second such demonstration yesterday reported by

the agency.

"There were women and children among the demonstrators who were walking along the river and splashing water as a sign of victory and joy," said Irna, monitored in Nicosia.

A Soviet freight train stopped and blew its whistle in solidarity with the crowd, it added.

The agency said the demonstrators chanted "Allah-O Akbar" (God is

Great), "God's blood is in our veins," and other slogans supporting their right to contacts with Iranian Azeris.

The sympathetic attitude of Soviet border guards and prospects of greater contacts across the border had helped calm tensions among the Soviet Azeris, Irna said.

Predominantly Shiite Muslim Soviet Azeris, demanding more farmland and greater contacts with fellow Azeris in

Iran, tore down border posts and barbed wire on Saturday.

The Araks river became part of Iran's border with Russia in 1828, but the Azeris straddling the frontier remained bound by common language, religion and culture despite the 1917 Russian revolution.

Tehran radio quoted Deputy Minister Mehdi Hashemi as saying today that Iranian port facilities in the Casp-

ian Sea would be expanded to allow tourists to travel between Iran and the Soviet Union by boat.

Irna quoted Hashemi as saying Iran was especially interested in hosting Soviet Muslims from Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkmenistan.

Twelve people from Soviet Azerbaijan jumped into an icy cold border river to swim to the Iranian shore over the past few days, as guards on both

sides relaxed restrictions, the official Islamic Republic News Agency said today.

The crossings took place at Jolfa, some 400 miles (640 km) northwest of Tehran, and at Poldasht, some 50 miles (80 km) further up the Araks River, as temperatures plunged below freezing, an Irna dispatch monitored in Athens said.



Envoy to US

Ria Klimova at her flat. It is expected that Klimova will be nominated as ambassador of Czechoslovakia to the US next week. (Reuters wirephoto)

Pacifying Lithuania

MOSCOW, Jan 8, (Agencies): Politburo member Vadim Medvedev led an advance team to Vilnius today two days before Mikhail Gorbachev's scheduled trip to the Lithuanian capital to try to stem the first splintering of the monolithic Soviet Communist Party in 72 years, reports said.

Medvedev left on his second lobbying mission to Vilnius in six weeks, leading a central committee delegation for meetings with the defiant Lithuanian communists. Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadi Gerasimov said.

State-run television, in the first official confirmation of Gorbachev's travel dates, said the Soviet leader and general secretary of the national party would be in the Baltic republic from Wednesday to Friday.

"Lithuania is preparing for the arrival of Mikhail Gorbachev, full and candidate members of the Politburo, and secretaries of the central committee of the Soviet Communist Party," television said.

"The event is planned for Jan 10-12, and they are going to analyse the complex situation that appeared after the Lithuanian Communist Party declared its independence," it said.

Gorbachev's unusual journey was announced following the suspension of an urgent central committee plenum Dec 26, six days after the Lithuanian Communist Party voted overwhelmingly to break from Moscow and form the first independent republican party in Soviet history.

"Mikhail Gorbachev wants to see the situation with his own eyes, get a first hand impression," Gerasimov told reporters today.

"Currently life itself has not yet formulated a solution to the problem," he said.

Asked who would accompany Gorbachev to Vilnius, Gerasimov said he would "probably know" the delegation's makeup tomorrow.

Gorbachev met with Lithuanian communist leaders in Moscow last week, apparently seeking some compromise in what is emerging as the steepest internal political test of his nearly five

Soviet soldier emerges

42 years in hiding

MOSCOW, Jan 8, (AP): A soldier who claims he went into hiding from Stalin's secret police 42 years ago has emerged from the woods, convinced by reports of the Kremlin's reforms that it is finally safe, Soviet media reported today.

Ivan Bushilo was a 25-year-old decorated veteran newly returned home when he ran afoul of Josef Stalin's secret police in 1947, Soviet TV reported in footage showing the wrinkled but healthy-looking 68-year-old adjusting to life in his home village in Byelorussia.

When his attempts to fight the injustices of the security police put him in serious danger, Bushilo fled to the Byelorussian woods and lived off the land in primitive shelters for the next four decades, Soviet TV said.

He had almost no human contact except for rare visits from close relatives, the official news agency said.

None of the reports explained how Bushilo could have survived the cold winter, and they did not say if Soviet officials believed Bushilo's tale.

In an interview with the weekly news programme Seven Days, Bushilo said it was reports about President Mikhail S. Gorbachev in newspapers that he was brought to persuade him to come back.

Asked why he didn't return earlier, Bushilo said, "I didn't come out because I didn't trust anybody. Only now I trust Gorbachev. And only Gorbachev."

years at the Kremlin helm. The Lithuanian Party's declaration of independence last month was the first splintering of the Kremlin's Communist Party since it came to power in November 1917 as the sole ruling body in the giant country. The party is so monolithic that party factions have been outlawed since the early 1920s.

"If we cross this line, then we can be said to be deliberately aiming to break up the Soviet Union," Gorbachev said in December. "The present party and state leadership will not allow the breakup of the federal state."

Gorbachev, the general secretary of the party as well as the nation's president, said if the other 14 republics of the Soviet Union would follow Lithuania's lead, the glue would be removed from the union.

The Communist breakaway in Lithuania added a new dimension to the drive for independence by Lithuania and the sister Baltic republics of Estonia and Latvia. The Baltic republics were independent countries until annexed in 1940 by the Soviet Union — an incorporation not

recognised by the United States.

Until the Lithuanian communists found their voice, the independence drive for the Baltic republic had been led by the Sajudis Popular Front movement, which had captured the imagination of the 2.8 million Lithuanians comprising 80 per cent of their republic.

Lithuanian activists said yesterday they are planning to stage a huge pro-independence rally when Gorbachev arrives to talks with breakaway communist officials this week.

Leaders in the Soviet Union's volatile far south are promising to investigate the killing of a baby and other grievances that sparked the latest bouts of ethnic tension to dog the Kremlin.

About 100,000 Soviet citizens have applied to immigrate to the United States since Washington introduced new rules on refugees three months ago, but few have a chance of being accepted this year, a senior State Department official said.

Soviet television broadcast an Orthodox Christmas midnight mass on Sunday, sharing with millions of viewers a new religious tolerance in the Kremlin.

Romania starts trial of secret policemen

Comecon is obsolete: Munteanu

BUCHAREST, Jan 8, (Reuters): Romania put the first of Nicolae Ceausescu's feared secret police on trial today on charges arising from their last ditch stand to keep the communist dictator in power.

The National Salvation Front, the country's provisional leadership since the Dec 22 overthrow of Ceausescu, meanwhile, pledged to negotiate with fledgling political parties on restoring democracy.

Front spokesman Aurel Munteanu said a special military tribunal had started trying "terrorists" in the central provincial capital of Sibiu.

The Front applies the term terrorist to the remnants of Ceausescu's Securitate secret police.

"In Sibiu, a special military tribunal will try a number of terrorists who fought against the people for a number of days following the

revolution of Dec 22," Munteanu told a news conference. He said the trials would be the first of a series throughout the country, that the accused would be tried "according to valid laws" but that those found guilty would not be executed.

The Front abolished the death penalty on Jan 1. Munteanu also said the Front was willing to meet representatives of newly-formed parties to discuss how to run Romania's first free elections in more than four decades planned for April.

He said the Front, which took power after Ceausescu was toppled and executed last month, would give all political parties free access to radio and television once the election campaign began.

"We still do not have the full legal basis for elections," Munteanu said. "We have only been in power for 14 days and we are having to build up a legal system from nothing."

Among the main points to be discussed with political parties were how members of a new parliament would be elected — whether by direct ballot or voting for party lists.

Munteanu said the Front was considering compiling a list of candidates it would support from all political parties, but he emphatically denied that it would itself campaign as a political party.

The Front is a 151-member umbrella organisation of politicians, intellectuals, students and army officers.

"This is only a statement of intent at present," Munteanu said. "We think this could be the basis for a responsible election campaign."

The Front has also issued a decree setting up new local government bodies headed by mayors to cover a wide range of municipal and rural issues from social security to transport and roads. The decree made no mention of local elections.

Munteanu said Prime Minister Petre Roman was leaving today for a meeting of Comecon, the East bloc's Soviet-led economic grouping, in Sofia tomorrow.

"Our idea is that Comecon is obsolete. It never functioned properly and it is not functioning properly now, either," Munteanu said. "It has to change if it is to have any chance of survival."

Comecon, the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, was set up in the 1950s.

Czechoslovakia, Hungary, East Germany and Poland have also called for its reform.

Other member states include Vietnam, Cuba and Mongolia.

Munteanu said Romania had also started negotiations with the European Economic Community for aid to help the country overcome serious food supply problems which have become acute due to the freezing winter weather.

He said reserves of food and energy in some parts of the country would last for only 10 days.

A Front statement, carried by the national Rompress news agency today, said Romania wanted to establish full diplomatic relations with the European Economic Community and send an ambassador to represent it in dealings with the 12-nation trading bloc.

Meanwhile, Romania's newly-resurrected Liberal Party, first established in 1848, has called for a return of the monarchy.

Party activist Dan Lazarescu said yesterday he had written to ex-king Michael two days ago asking him to return to Romania and assume the throne.

In Rome, Romania's new authorities have told the Vatican that Catholics suppressed during four decades of communist rule will have full freedom of worship, the Italian news agency Ansa reported today.

In a report from Bucharest, it said Pope John Paul II's special envoy to Eastern Europe, Archbishop Francesco Colasuonno, received the pledge from Foreign Minister Dumitru Mazilu, a vice-president of Romania's National Salvation Front.

The interim Romanian government refused at the end of the last week to allow head of the Israeli intelligence service "Mossad" from entering the country, an unidentified Romanian official said today.

revolution of Dec 22," Munteanu told a news conference. He said the trials would be the first of a series throughout the country, that the accused would be tried "according to valid laws" but that those found guilty would not be executed.

The Front abolished the death penalty on Jan 1. Munteanu also said the Front was willing to meet representatives of newly-formed parties to discuss how to run Romania's first free elections in more than four decades planned for April.

He said the Front, which took power after Ceausescu was toppled and executed last month, would give all political parties free access to radio and television once the election campaign began.

"We still do not have the full legal basis for elections," Munteanu said. "We have only been in power for 14 days and we are having to build up a legal system from nothing."

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Row over 'police' disrupts Berlin talks

EAST BERLIN, Jan 8, (AP): Talks between the Communist-dominated government and opposition groups temporarily broke off today after the opposition questioned whether the hated secret police was being disbanded as promised.

One opposition group charged that as recently as a month ago, secret police agents were continuing to work against the reformers. Communist leaders present denied knowledge of the activity.

The suspension of the weekly round-table talks came after the pro-democracy group Democratic Awakening demanded that government officials appear later today and give an account of the domestic security situation.

There was no immediate word on the government's response. Opposition groups have threatened to leave the talks altogether over what they charge are government efforts to preserve a force to spy on domestic dissenters.

Rolf Henrich of New Forum, the largest of the opposition forces, made public what he said was a draft telex prepared by secret police agents in the city of Gera on Dec 9. In it, authorities in East Berlin were urged to take steps to "paralyse" the opposition.

However, Henrich said he was uncertain if the telex was ever actually sent. Leaders at the talks, including Communist Party chief Gregor Gysi, said they had no knowledge of such a message.

Democratic awakening leader Wolfgang Schnur, who said opposition groups were temporarily pulling out of the talks over the issue, demanded that the National Prosecutor's Office and the Interior Ministry make an accounting of the domestic surveillance situation.

A collapse of the talks could endanger the already fragile acceptance of Communist Premier Hans Modrow's transitional cabinet by opposition groups, who themselves have been unable to present a unified front.

The Modrow government, formed after a peaceful popular revolution toppled one-party authoritarian Communist rule, has promised to create conditions for free and fair elections on May 6.

The negotiations, launched Dec 7, include some 40 delegates from the Communists, other political parties long aligned with them but now independent, and the pro-democracy opposition.

Dozens of citizens' groups pressing for social, political, environmental and economic reforms have sprung up throughout East Germany since the Oct 18 ouster of hard-line Communist leader Erich Honecker and the nation's turn toward democracy and open borders.

As talks resumed today, the opposition demanded that the government disarm agents of the former state security office by Jan 19 and drop plans to set up a new agency to succeed it before the May elections.

Peter Koch, named by the government to oversee dissolution of the secret police, said authorities plan to confiscate all of the former agency's arms by the end of January.

Soviet troops to pull out of Hungary

BUDAPEST, Jan 8, (AP): The Red Army will pull out an airborne regiment, two tank battalions and 6,000 troops this year as part of a unilateral troop withdrawal from Eastern Europe, the state news agency MTI reported today.

Col. Gen. Grigory Krivosheev, Soviet deputy chief of staff, was quoted as saying the troop cuts, to include also a mechanised infantry regiment, will cover more than 40 military aircraft, 120 tanks, some 180 armoured cars and 400 other motorised vehicles.

"The decisive majority of the troops pulled out from Hungary will be demobilised," MTI quoted Krivosheev as saying. He did not elaborate.

The cuts, which were begun last year, are part of Soviet army withdrawal plan from Eastern Europe announced by President Mikhail Gorbachev in Dec 1988. According to the plan, the Kremlin will pull out 50,000 troops stationed in Hungary, Czechoslovakia and East Germany.

NEWS IN BRIEF

US shuttle launch postponed: The launch of the US space shuttle Columbia on a crucial satellite-rescue mission was postponed for 24 hours today because of bad weather, space agency officials said.

After spending four hours strapped into their flight seats, Columbia's five astronauts were told the thick blanket of clouds over the Kennedy Space Centre had forced the scrubbing of the year's first shuttle launch.

Officials of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) said they would try again tomorrow morning, when forecasters expect conditions more favourable to liftoff.

The crew of the Soviet space station Mir will begin a two-and-a-half-hour space walk today, the official Tass news agency said. (Reuters)

UK Muslims step up drive: British Muslims stepped up a campaign to block the sale of Salman Rushdie's novel *The Satanic Verses* on Monday by launching a five-day protest outside the London offices of the book's publishers.

Ali Mugharam Ghamdi, chairman of the UK action committee on Islamic Affairs, told a news conference, Muslims had been deeply hurt by the book and by reactions to their complaints. (Reuters)

Nixon birthday a city holiday: Former President Richard M. Nixon's 77th birthday Tuesday is a holiday in his hometown of Yorba Linda, California, which is proudly planning for this summer's opening of the Nixon Presidential Library.

The Nixon Presidential Library and birthplace, 30 miles (50 km) southeast of Los Angeles, will be the first of two presidential libraries to open in southern California. The Ronald Reagan Presidential library opens next year in Simi Valley, 75 miles (120 km) away. (AP)

French to provide: France is to provide \$5 million worth of bomb detection equipment to airports in capitals of 20 of its former African colonies, French diplomatic sources said Monday.

In most of these airports, baggage searches now are carried out by hand.

Strengthening security is designed to prevent another catastrophe such as the explosion of a Paris-bound French UTA DC-10 airliner over the Tenere Desert of Niger Sept 19, which killed all 171 people aboard. (AP)



Music session

After exchanging their hats an East German border guard (left) and a West German organ grinder have a spontaneous music session in front of the Brandenburg gate in East Berlin. (Reuters wirephoto)

US lotto hoax: A woman said she won a \$35-million lottery jackpot after multimillionaire Donald Trump of Malcolm Forbes told her the lucky numbers in a dream, but a news report Monday said she later admitted it was a hoax.

Charlene "Charlie" Taylor pulled the prank with the help of Alan Abel, a jokester whose previous feats included getting his own obituary printed in the New York Times and staging fainting spells in the audience of the nationally broadcast "Donahue" television show, the Daily News said. (AP)

Victory eases conflict: Thai Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan, said Monday the landslide victory of Chamlong Srimuang in Bangkok's mayoral election will ease the conflicts between Chamlong and Interior Minister Pramarn Adireksarn.

"We (the government) have known the desire of Bangkokians. We will support the Bangkok metropolitan administration as much as we could," Chatichai said. (UPI)

Crowe suggests US-Soviet talks on naval N-arms cuts

WASHINGTON, Jan 8, (Reuters): Washington should break with past policy and consider negotiations with Moscow on scrapping nuclear weapons at sea, former chairman of the US joint chiefs of staff William Crowe said in an interview published today.

Crowe, the top US military officer from 1985 until his retirement in October, told the Washington Post that the United States should also consider cutting its naval force in exchange for major concessions on strategic arms disputes.

"If some naval reductions can get us more than they're worth, we ought to be willing to consider talking" with the Soviet Union, he was quoted as saying. "My view of the whole bloody mess is that there shouldn't be anything sacrosanct."

Crowe's statement was at odds with the longstanding position of the navy, Defence Department and the Bush administration.

But such negotiations would be welcomed by the Soviet Union, which has said it is

anxious to curb the overwhelming US advantage in warships and naval nuclear weapons. During a shipboard summit meeting off Malta last month, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev proposed talks on eliminating tactical nuclear weapons from all US and Soviet surface vessels.

He also argued more generally that it was wrong to exempt naval arms from superpower negotiations covering cuts in strategic, chemical and conventional arms.

IRA gives arms to Basques: Spain

MADRID, Jan 8, (AP): Spanish Intelligence Services have proof that the Irish Republican Army has been providing armed Basque separatists with military material and information, the country's largest daily paper reported today.

The newspaper El Pais said an investigation by the Intelligence Services uncovered "close logistical co-operation" between the outlawed IRA and ETA, the armed Basque separatist organisation.

ETA, which stands for *Hemuland And Liberta* in the Basque language, has claimed more than 600 lives in its 21-year campaign to become independent for the northern Basque country.

El Pais said, without citing sources, that the investigation had uncovered "solid proof" of the relationship.

According to the newspaper, the IRA furnished ETA with detailed plans for the construction of the *Jotake* mortar, capable of firing grenades a distance of 200 metres (220 yards). ETA has used the mortar in attacks on paramilitary civil guard barracks.

The paper also said the IRA has supplied ETA with an unspecified device that insures greater accuracy in firing the grenades. El Pais said the device was available commercially only in Northern Ireland.

The IRA is fighting to rid Northern Ireland of British rule. A Northern Ireland Catholic taxi driver was found shot dead yesterday apparently in revenge for the killing of a Protestant man by Irish Republican Army bombers last week, police said.

Amnesty reports abuses in Austria

128 incidents since Dec '84

LONDON, Jan 8, (AP): Amnesty International said today it has received reports from Austria indicating a pattern of abuse of suspects held in custody. Detainees allegedly were slapped, nearly suffocated or burned with cigarettes.

The International Human Rights Organisation said it has received reports of 128 incidents since December 1984.

"One man interviewed by Amnesty International said that he was held for two days in March 1989 and questioned by six police officers who repeatedly held his head under water until he agreed to sign a statement confessing to a number of crimes."

"He asked Amnesty International not to reveal his name because while in prison he had met someone who had made a complaint about ill-treatment and thereafter had been prosecuted for defamation and given an additional prison sentence."

The group also cited the case of Mustafa Ali and Fatahi Ali, who were stopped by police in March 1989 for running a red light. When Mustafa Ali refused to pay a fine, Amnesty International alleged, he was arrested and handcuffed, beaten with truncheons and taken to a police station where he was beaten again.

"He was then pushed against a pane of glass and became unconscious and was admitted to hospital. Mustafa Ali filed a complaint with the Constitutional Court, which is pending. He is being sued by the Finance Ministry for the damaged pane of glass," the report said.

Amnesty International said that most of the alleged ill treatment occurred during the first two days of detention. The organisation said that until July 1988 a suspect could be held incommunicado for up to 48 hours, but they now have the right to telephone a relative or lawyer.

The men cleared both restaurants, tying up employees and patrons to lead them away, witnesses told police.

Corsica restaurants blown up

AJACCIO, Corsica, Jan 8, (UPI): A group of about 10 armed, masked men blew up two restaurants yesterday on the tiny Mediterranean island of Cavallo, a privately owned millionaire's paradise south of Corsica, police said yesterday.

The "les pecheurs" (the fishermen) and "Palma-club" restaurants were both destroyed by the early morning explosions.

Police said there were indications the attacks had been carried out by the Corsican National Liberation Front (FLNC) — nationalist militants who have been fighting for Corsican independence.



Bid to win release of hostages

Graziella Erriquez (right) mother of Swiss hostage in Lebanon Elio Erriquez and his twin sister Marie (centre) and his brother Antoine arrived in West Beirut along with a family of another Swiss hostage Emmanuel Christian in a bid to win their release. (Reuter wirephoto)

Global action sought

Climate changes due to sea level rise

GENEVA, Jan 8. (Kuna): All coastal and island governments should ensure that prospective sea level rise and related climate changes are taken into account in long-range planning, according to the "Cairo compact" — an agenda for action adopted by environmental experts at Cairo recently.

A number of urgent measures were discussed by experts from six continents toward a concerted world-wide response to climate crisis. The five-day conference on "Preparing for climate change," held towards end of December 1989, also had senior experts from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Geneva-based World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). The experts urged the need for global action now to reduce or blunt the impacts of climate change and pointed

out that these actions should not await the resolution of remaining scientific uncertainties as the "situation demands a global insurance policy to protect our future." According to the consensus statement adopted by the experts, nations should consider establishing world cultural zones to safeguard priceless elements of mankind's cultural heritage — historically significant buildings and other antiquities.

The Nile valley in Egypt, which is home to many historically unique structures, would be an appropriate area in which to establish the first such zone, it is suggested. In addition, research programmes should be initiated to monitor localised climate changes that may imperil antiquities and to detect climate induced damage in its incipency.

Israel detains over 100 suspects

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, Jan 8. (Agencies): The army today rounded up more than 100 Palestinians suspected of belonging to PLO-linked "strike forces" and demolished or sealed six houses overnight, officials said.

The arrests were made in sweeps of Arab villages near Ramallah in the occupied West Bank, and the military said the detainees belonged to a terrorist organisation recently uncovered in the area.

Some of the suspects belonged to strike forces organised by Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah wing of the PLO, an army official said.

The strike forces are underground groups that enforce orders of the PLO-linked underground leadership of the Palestinian uprising.

Military officials said the group was responsible for the Oct 7 killing of a Palestinian in the West Bank village of Deir Al Seta where allegedly assisted Israeli authorities.

They were also suspected of stabbing and wounding two other alleged collaborators and of torching and firebombing Arab-owned cars as punishment for helping Israel, said the officials who are not identified in accordance with army regulations.

Four houses of alleged strike force members in the Ramallah area were sealed overnight, they said.

The army defends its policy of house demolitions and sealings by saying it serves as a strong deterrent against future unrest, but it has been criticised by the US government and human rights groups in Israel and abroad as collective punishment.

A study released Dec 20 by the Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies disputed army claims that house demolitions reduced violence. It found that in many cases such measures inflamed the situation.

In Gaza City, the army destroyed the house of Hussein Hijazi Al Lnanh, 26, who belonged to the radical "Revolutionary Eagles" group, which the army said was linked to Yasser Arafat's Fatah fighters. Arab reporters said the two-room house was home to 11 people.

Al Lnanh, arrested last October, was suspected of joining Fatah during the uprising, after which he killed a Gaza City municipality worker, wounded a number of other alleged collaborators and tried to shoot another municipal worker, they said.

The Gaza City house of Said Shaaban El Awabi, 35, was sealed, the military said. Officials said the man, arrested last July, was accused of being a strike force member who had kidnapped and violently interrogated Arabs suspected of collaborating with Israel.

An Israeli military court has jailed an Arab journalist for 15 months for writing part of an underground leaflet for the Palestinian uprising.

The military court in Lod convicted Hameez Samadi, 29, last week of writing an introduction to a leaflet by the clandestine leadership of the uprising.

The mayor of Tel Aviv has called for peace talks with the PLO, a week after Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir threatened to fire a cabinet minister for contacts with the group.

Shlomo Lahat, a former general who commanded Israeli forces in the Sinai, told local reporters yesterday that Shamir would eventually have to talk to the PLO.

Lahat would not answer questions today, but in a telephone interview his spokesman Benny Cohen confirmed the statements in which Lahat said he was willing to meet PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

"I state unequivocally, I favour speaking with anyone who can bring peace, even Yasser Arafat himself," Lahat said. "I think Shamir will speak with the PLO in the end. I don't believe he will have any alternative."

Poland said today it expected to restore diplomatic relations with Israel late in February after a break of almost 23 years over the 1967 Middle East war.

Witch doctors arrested in UAE

ABU DHABI, Jan 8. (AP): Police have arrested an Indian sorceress who claimed the power of healing diseases, a police source said yesterday.

Two more African witch doctors were also arrested in the United Arab Emirates recently after they claimed powers through their special relations with demons.

The three cases discovered were but a few of a host of a new generation of witch doctors attracted by the money of the oil-rich Gulf," said the source, who could not be named under standing rules.

The Indian, who was arrested on Saturday, was identified as Faridah Bin Amirjan. She claimed she could cure diseases and solve social problems merely by reading verses from the Holy Quran, for a reward to be decided by the patient.

The two others were identified as Senegalese Mossa Mohammed Kawaji and Nigerian Dam Abu Bakr Moussa.

Kawaji, who claimed to heal diseases and find stolen money, was arrested in Sharjah. He was quoted as telling the police he knew

"all the 25 groups of demons," claiming they resembled black cats and lions.

In one case, Kawaji was alleged to have charged a person seeking a cure \$10,000 and 222 grammes of gold. Police said he admitted "that was difficult, but I usually cure patients for only 10,000 to 20,000 dirhams" or \$2,500 to \$5,000.

The Nigerian asked a UAE national for \$25,000 claiming to return to him a billion dirhams (\$250 million) of which he had been swindled, the police source recounted.

Militias call for mercy ceasefire

17 decomposed bodies recovered

BEIRUT, Jan 8. (Agencies): The Red Cross evacuated 17 decomposed bodies from fields in embattled villages of South Lebanon today during a mercy ceasefire called after 17 days of fighting between rival Shiite Muslim militias.

The bodies, wrapped in blankets and plastic bags, belonged to militiamen of the Syrian-backed, mainstream Amal movement which has been fighting the pro-Iranian Hezbollah, or Party of God.

An overpowering stench hung in the air as the bodies were handed over by the Red Cross team to a group of Amal scouts who returned the corpses to their families.

The casualties raised the overall toll in the inter-Shiite bloodbath to 94 killed and 275 wounded, by police count, since the fighting started Dec 23 in Iqlim Al Tuffah, or the apple province.

The seven-hour truce took hold in most villages after Palestinian fighters deployed in a buffer zone in Iqlim Al Tuffah to disengage the two warring factions.

Iranian envoy Mohammad Ali Besharati, trying to mediate a settlement to end the two-year-old power struggle for control over Lebanon's largest single sect of 1.2 million people, drove from Syria overnight for talks with Shiite leaders.

Besharati, a deputy foreign minister, failed to rein in the clashes on a previous trip last week.

The International Committee of the Red Cross dispatched eight ambulances and eight station wagons with medical teams from Beirut to evacuate casualties trapped in the villages of the embattled province, an ICRC statement said.

Statements by the command of the rival factions in Beirut

spoke of dozens of decomposed bodies lying in the fields, in addition to wounded civilians and combatants in urgent need of medical care.

Police said both factions withheld fire in the villages of Kfar Hatta, Kfar Milki and Kfar Beit as the ICRC teams rolled in.

But elsewhere in the province, particularly around the villages of Jarjou, Jbaa and Ein Bouwar, Hezbollah and Amal fighters kept up a steady exchange of artillery fire. No casualties were reported.

About 700 Palestine Liberation Organisation fighters now man a two-kilometre (three-mile) buffer separating the villages of Kfar Hatta, Kfar Milki and Kfar Beit.

That prevents the two sides from launching major ground thrusts, but it does not necessarily stop them lobbing artillery shells and rockets over the heads

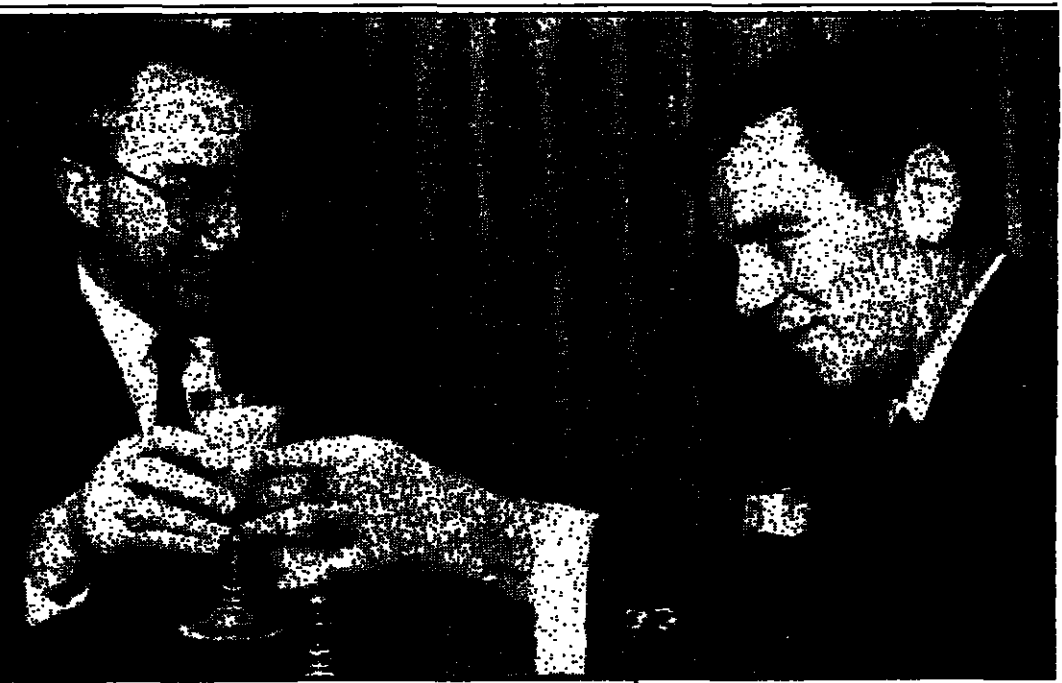
of fighters in the buffer zone.

The fighting had raged 3-5 miles (5-8 kms) southeast of the Palestinian refugee camps of Ein El Hilweh and Mieh Mieh near Sidon, 25 miles (40 kms) south of Beirut.

Police have said the PLO intervention was ordered by Chairman Yasser Arafat apparently to prevent either Shiite faction from gaining territory from which the two camps, his main power base in Lebanon, can easily be shelled.

Hezbollah's spiritual guide, Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadallah, said in an interview published by the conservative Beirut daily Al Anwar today, "The apple province war is drawing to an end."

"The curtain will be lowered soon on that conflict," said Fadallah, Lebanon's most influential Shiite cleric.



Israel, Hungary sign cultural accord

Ties are going to be very friendly: Arens

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, Jan 8. (UPI): Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn met his Israeli counterpart yesterday to discuss how the two countries could strengthen bilateral relations

four months after Israel and Hungary renewed ties following a 22-year lapse.

By the end of the first day of his three-day visit, Horn and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens signed an agreement in the areas of culture, education and science.

Speaking to reporters outside the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, Arens described the agreement "as one of many agreements (that will) be signed between Israel and Hungary because I know that our relations are going to be very friendly and very close."

"We shall do everything in our power to be of assistance because we want to be on good terms with Hungary," Arens said. "We want to make our contribution to

Czechs to visit

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, Jan 8. (UPI): Israel-Europe contacts received another push today as officials prepared for the arrival of a Czechoslovakian delegation expected to discuss future relations.

Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn also met with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir as part of his official visit to Israel since Budapest renewed relations Sept 18 after a 22-year lapse. Hungary became the first East bloc nation to restore full diplomatic ties with Israel since the Soviet Union and five other Warsaw Pact nations severed relations after the 1967 Israeli-Arab war.

that transition to democracy that is taking place throughout Eastern Europe now."

Talks yesterday included the Middle East peace process and the situation in Eastern Europe. Hungary was interested in Israel's point of view on the peace process as well as explaining Budapest's position, Horn said.

"We... are supporting the idea of convening an international conference but of course on this matter it is up to the parties directly concerned who have to take a decision," Horn said.

"I've got a feeling that we've been given very authentic information on the past of Mr Arens and his colleagues," Horn said, adding, "I want to use the time that remains to get even wider ranging information."

Hungary renewed diplomatic relations with Israel last fall, becoming the first East bloc nation to restore official contacts since the Soviet Union and five other countries severed ties after the 1967 Israeli-Arab war. Arens travelled to Budapest Sept 18 to sign a formal agreement renewing ties.

Arens said he believed other East bloc countries would follow Hungary's lead in re-establishing ties with Israel.

US stands for neutral Afghanistan

(Continued from Page 1)

Tomsen has warned that bloodshed in Afghanistan would continue if a political settlement is not reached for a peaceful transfer of power from the Soviet-backed regime to the mujahedeen.

"We don't think there should be a battle for Kabul; we would like to see a political settlement," Tomsen said.

He said this could not be achieved until "Najibullah and his cohorts leave; otherwise the war will continue for months. Tomsen said the mujahedeen will continue 'resistance until they achieve self-determination' like East European's."

He said the mujahedeen now control 80 per cent of Afghanistan and Kabul's "area of control (is) shrinking," adding the time had come "to reach an agreement for a mujahedeen-centred government."

Tomsen said the US wants the "return of a non-aligned, independent regime (which will) restore the historic buffer in central Asia, destroyed by the Soviet invasion."

He said Najibullah's government, which the US had said would fall by February 1989, remains in power with massive support, amounting to over \$300 million and sophisticated weaponry, from the Soviet Union.

"The Najibullah government is swaying on a lifeline from the Soviet Union and the number of Russian advisers (in Kabul) has risen in recent months," he said. He said in this situation the US will continue to support the interim-government of Afghanistan, until it achieves its goal of self-determination. The US has been supplying arms and economic support to the Mujahideen and has funded, among other things, 1,500 schools and 1,000 health centres. He said it would be "unjust and unfair" to the Mujahideen, in view of continued Soviet supplies, to scale down US arms shipments.

Replying to a question about ex-King Zahir Shah's eventual role in Afghanistan, Tomsen said the "US has no favourites" and it was up to the Afghan people to decide what role they would like him to play. He described Zahir Shah as a "supporter of the resistance."

Tomsen declined comment on the recent French decision to return its diplomats to Kabul but said the US won't "do that until there is a truly representative government."

Commenting on recent contacts between the Afghan interim-government and the Soviet Union with West German participation, Tomsen said such a "dialogue could contribute to a political settlement."

He described the interim-government of Afghanistan as an "Islamic" regime, rejecting the idea that it was prone to "fundamentalism."

Tomsen disclosed that a ministerial meeting between the Soviet and American foreign ministers would be held in February to discuss the Afghan issue.

Abu Nidal is out of business

TRIPOLI, Jan 8. (Reuters): Abu Nidal is out of business, according to Palestinian sources in Tripoli.

Described by the US State Department as the world's most dangerous terrorist organisation, the Fatah Revolutionary Council led by Abu Nidal has been thrown out of its offices in the Souq Al Jumaa quarter of Tripoli and its training camp in nearby Al Sawani, the sources said.

With the Libyan authorities tightening the screws, Abu Nidal himself and his close associates have been under something like house arrest since mid-December, no longer enjoying the freedom of movement they once had, the sources added.

"Abu Nidal and those of his followers who are still in Tripoli are now unable to do any harm. The Libyan authorities have neutralised them," said a Palestinian source.

"It's clear they can no longer launch any operations."

France explains Afghan policy

ISLAMABAD, Jan 8. (Reuters): A French minister arrived in Pakistan today to explain France's decision to be the first Western nation to send diplomats back to Afghanistan.

A French official said the original aim of Junior Foreign Minister Edwige Avice's three-day trip was to prepare for a state visit by French President Francois Mitterrand in February or early March.

But she will also explain to Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto why Paris had decided to take the lead in restaffing its embassy in Kabul, the official said.

Western diplomats said the move had angered the United States, which is the main supporter of Afghan rebels fighting the Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

France and other Western nations followed the United States early last year in pulling out their diplomats from Kabul in the runup to the final withdrawal of Soviet troops in February.

At the time they said security worries were the reason, but European diplomats now say they were bulldozed into the move.

The French were among the most reluctant to leave and decided to return because French aid workers operating in Afghanistan needed their protection, a French diplomatic source said in Paris last week.

Other European nations, including Britain, Italy and West Germany, have recently sent technical missions to Kabul to check their embassies and look after local staff.

MIDEAST BRIEFING

Arafat visits Chad: PLO leader Yasser Arafat visited Chad for the first time on Monday and in an arrival declaration saluted President Hissene Habre's support for the Palestinian cause.

Government sources said Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, would meet Habre during the 24-hour visit, but the topics for discussion were not disclosed. (Reuters)

214 killed in tribal clashes: Sudan said on Monday that 214 people were killed and 38 injured in clashes late last month between Muslim Arab tribesmen and non-Muslim southerners in central Sudan, raising the official death toll by 28.

The official Sudan News Agency (Suna) said the ruling military Junta would set up a high-powered committee to probe the clashes on December 28 in the town of El Gebelein. (Reuters)

Drugs ring smashed in Iran: Iranian anti-narcotics agents smashed an international drug-trafficking ring in the country's western Bakhtaran province, and arrested 14 smugglers with a small cache of arms, Tehran radio reported Monday.

The broadcast, monitored in Nicolas, said the network had been active in a number of countries, including Turkey, which borders Bakhtaran. (AP)

House arrest protested: Supporters of Moroccan Islamic leader Abd Assalam Yassine demonstrated for three hours outside his home in the town of Sale on Sunday in protest at his house arrest, his Adl Wa Lihane fundamentalist movement said.

Yassine's home in the town near Rabat has been surrounded by police since December 30 and he is not allowed visitors. (Reuters)

Tunisian rivals to boycott talks: Tunisia's main opposition groups said on Monday they would boycott informal talks with the government unless Prime Minister Hamed Karoui made last-minute concessions on the form of the meeting.

Karoui had invited them to a meeting on Tuesday of a national pact council where they could give their views on political reforms to make Tunisia more democratic. (Reuters)

Libya, Amman diplomatic ties: Jordan and Libya will very shortly re-open their embassies in each other's capitals, a senior official source said in Amman Monday.

The source told Kuna that contacts are under way between the concerned authorities in each of Tripoli and Amman concerning resumption of work by the two missions. (Kuna)

Mystery shrouds attack: The Polish government said Monday it could shed no light on the fate of 30 people missing from a Polish freighter found unmanned and aground off the Ethiopian coast after being attacked, apparently by Eritrean rebels.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the ministry had no information about the 29 crew and one passenger missing from the 11,627-ton vessel "Boleslaw Krzywousty" found in shallow waters off the Ethiopian port of Massawa Jan 4. (UPI)

Eritrean rebels claim: A spokesman for the Eritrean Liberation Front on Sunday claimed responsibility for recent attacks on two Polish ships in the Red Sea, and vowed that any ship carrying weapons to Ethiopia through the sea will be subject to Eritrean fire.

"We were sure that one of the two Polish ships was carrying arms to Ethiopia," said the spokesman, reached by telephone in another Gulf state. (AP)

Arafat to visit Cairo: Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasser Arafat will visit Cairo Tuesday for talks with President Hosni Mubarak on Middle East peace efforts, a Palestinian source said Monday.

The PLO leader will also attend a seminar celebrating the 25th anniversary of the foundation of his Fatah group. (AP)

Jordan's move toward democracy helps Arab-Americans in US

AMMAN, Jan 8. (AP): Political activist James Zogby told Jordanians today that their moves toward greater democracy are helping the Arab-American community in the United States.

"The process of an unfolding of a democracy in this part of the world can only be an encouragement and a support to the work we're doing," Zogby told a news conference.

Zogby, whose Arab-American Institute concentrates on electoral politics, suggested exchange visits between Arab-American elected officials and their Arab counterparts.

Jordan had its first nation-wide parliamentary election in 22 years last November.

Zogby said Jordanians might benefit from the experience of some American legislators, while the Americans could gain from the Middle East knowledge of those in the region.

He compared Jordan's steps toward democracy — along with those in Algeria, Tunis, North Yemen and the Palestinian uprising — with those in Eastern Europe, South Africa and elsewhere.

He accused Israel of involvement in South Africa and of aiding drug traffickers

in Colombia and Panama.

"There's a world revolution for democracy going on," he said. Israel's on the wrong side of that revolution.

He said the two-year-old Palestinian uprising "has changed America," partly by showing that criticism of Israel was not necessarily anti-Jewish racism.

Referring to Arab children with stones challenging Israeli troops occupying the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Zogby said: "You are not an anti-Semite to support those kids, and everyone knows it."

Zogby said Arab-Americans had made major political gains recently in the United

States through grassroots organising and said, "I can predict real, significant victory in the next four years."

The American said his organisation would try to expose the magnitude of campaign contributions by pro-Israeli lobbying groups. He compared them to contributions by savings and loan companies under investigation for swaying votes in Congress.

Zogby said that money has intimidated members of Congress from speaking truthfully about the Middle East for fear that large donations against them would allow opponents to defeat them.



HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister leaves for Cairo.

Amir audience

HIS Highness the Amir yesterday received His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah to take leave travelling to Egypt for an official visit.

Nasser leaves

SOCIAL Affairs and Labour Minister Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed Al Jaber left yesterday for Abu Dhabi, heading his country's delegation to the 10th session of meetings of the Labour and Social Affairs Ministers Council of Arab Gulf states, which opens today.

In a pre-departure statement to Kuna, Sheikh Nasser said that though material changes can be controlled, social changes can turn into social phenomena, which might be tough to deal with if not treated on the spot. He affirmed that many challenges lie within the next decade, "and we have to be up to the task of keeping up with the level of its events and changes."

Talks on ethnic Turks resume

(Continued from Page 1)

great period of change in Bulgaria, they will be completely eliminated," Yilmaz said.

However, he praised as a "very positive development" Bulgaria's rejection of demands for a referendum on the rights of minorities.

Yilmaz also considered that the moves by the new government had prepared the proper atmosphere for constructive negotiations in Kuwait. The re-assimilation campaign under Zhivkov and increasing curbs on ethnic and religious rights of the 1.5-million-strong Turkish minority earlier this year prompted more than 300,000 to flee to Turkey. Some have been returning, but Turkey still has to settle the refugee problem on its hands, while it has been seeking all along to ensure Muslim permanent rights in Bulgaria.

Yilmaz has said that Turkey wanted "a new era" for the Muslim minority to live in peace and with full rights.

Bulgarian Foreign Minister Bioko Dimitrov was to start talks with Yilmaz tomorrow at the Bayan Palace. Bulgarian nationalists called off strikes and protests against religious freedom for the Muslim minority today to await the outcome of talks on the country's ethnic problems.

A "social council," set up by the national assembly on Sunday, held its first meeting after a week of demonstrations against the new communist leadership's restoration of religious and cultural rights to Bulgaria's 1.5 million Muslim Turks. Politburo member Andrei Lukunov, a leading reformist, represented the government at the talks with opposition leaders and representatives of Bulgarian nationalists and ethnic Turks.

Peter Beron of the environmental opposition group Eco-Glasnost said the one-hour meeting set guidelines for another session planned for tomorrow.

"I think they will be able to resolve the issue," Beron said. Thousands of Bulgarian nationalists gathered in Sofia on Sunday to repeat demands for a referendum on the rights of ethnic Turks.

People, press hail pay hike

'A timely Amiri gift'

KUWAITI newspapers yesterday hailed in unison the salary increases of government employees and agreed that the "gift" instructed by His Highness the Amir testified to his resolve to make Kuwait enter the 1990s with new socio-economic development plans.

The dailies said the raise was in line with Kuwait's ambition to live up to the challenges of the new decade capitalising on its human resources and not only on its petro-dollars.

In front-page editorials, the papers added that the salary increase was designed to breathe new vigour into government bodies and will help accelerate execution of a wide-range of development plans.

They also saw the Amiri gesture as a manifestation of "deep cohesion between the leadership and people of Kuwait," as His Highness the Amir sought to ensure decent and dignified living to the people of Kuwait.

The salary increase, endorsed by the government on Sunday, amounted to 25 per cent of each employee's social allowance.

Pensioners, military personnel and recipients of government grants will also benefit from the increase, estimated to cost the government KD85 million, approximately \$280.5 million.

Non-Kuwaiti employees will benefit from the raise which ranges from about KD9 to KD50.

Respondents indicated that the raise was being anxiously awaited because of rising prices and bills.

The increase mirrored HH the Amir's "philosophy of change and adapting to the future with pragmatic responses to the inherent challenges."

The move has been seen as more than a mere generous gesture. It translates the Amir's vow to emerge all aspects of life in Kuwait in the 1990s.

To highlight the occasion, a local daily interviewed a number of government and non-government employees who were unanimous in their approval and agreed that the increase is timely and welcome.

Amani Al Asfour said that the increase is very much appreciated and speaks volumes for the "foresight" of the government authorities. She added that this increase will relatively offset the "day to day fight" to make both ends meet. Asour

said that she would like to avail of this opportunity of thanking HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Premier and the government for this kind and pragmatic gesture.

However, non-government employees speaking to the daily said that they would have to face additional financial problems in the wake of inflation resulting from the increase in allowances granted to government employees. They said that they cannot equate this increase without an imperative rise in essential commodities.

They called on the government to consider the plight of these employees and take measures to see that they are adequately compensated and to ensure strict supervision to prevent any escalation in the prices of essential commodities. Any increase in prices will surely erode their already "meagre take-home pay" they said.

Iqbal Al Mishal, a government employee, said: "We are very pleased with the increase as current salaries were not commensurate with high prices prevailing in the local market." However, she said that a great disparity does exist among salaries in various government sectors.

She said that prices of foodstuff as well as electrical appliances and house rents had reached an unheard-of level and said that any further increase in prices should be adjusted by way of enhanced allowances.

Abdul Aziz Abdullah, an employee at the Ministry of Justice said that increments should be in accordance with the grading system and added that the current level of salaries is no longer commensurate with the cost of living prevailing in the country. He said that should salaries be increased on the basis of being linked to productivity, employees will be motivated to work seriously and consequently to increase turnover and performance levels.

Mohammed Abdullah Al Jinai said that the increase was necessary to cope with expenses and liabilities and added that the relevant decision had been adopted to respond to the employees' aspirations and would contribute positively to achieving targeted goals.

Usman: death penalty to stay

THE Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs, Dhari Al Usman commenting on proposals to repeal the death sentence in Kuwait as in some other countries of the world, said that Kuwait is an Islamic state and Islam is the main source of legislation which mandates the death sentence for certain crimes.

Specifically he said: "It is Almighty God who created the people and He knows what is good for them. As Islam is the Law of God, it is undoubtedly superior to man-made laws."

He went on to say that several countries that had repealed the death sentence, restored it again when they found that it is the only way to reduce certain crimes of a serious nature to protect society. He added that the modern social reform movement agrees that the interests of society make it imperative to maintain the death penalty.

Usman said that the sentence in Kuwait laws decreed for serious crimes like premeditated murder, kidnapping people by force and some specific crimes which threaten the security of the state.

However, he explained that all death sentences are automatically appealed to higher courts — with or without the consent of the accused. Sentences are reviewed by the Appeal Court, then by the Cassation Court. In the final analysis, sentences can only be implemented on being ratified by HH the Amir who has the power to grant an Amiri pardon.

Speaking on the revision of several laws, the minister said that the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs is undertaking a comprehensive revision of the law of proceedings as it accords high priority to the rights of individuals. After revisions have been completed, a decision will be taken to decide to either put a new draft law of proceedings or introduce amendments to the present law.

The ministry has also completed a draft law to organise the jurisdiction to avoid gaps in the existing law and it has been submitted to the Council of Ministers for their approval, Usman said. He added that the ministry amended some articles in the present code of procedures in commercial and civil cases. The amendments are aimed at facilitating the proceedings and to issue sentences as soon as possible.

The ministry has also prepared a new draft law of advocacy to replace the present law that was issued in 1964. The new law aims at developing the profession of lawyers by providing more security to lawyers, preventing incompetent lawyers in working in the profession and bringing about a balance between the rights of defendants and their lawyers.

A joint committee from the ministry and Kuwait Lawyers Society has been formed to study the new draft law and exchange points of view. Representatives of the society submitted several proposals in this respect which were appreciated by the ministry and many of them have been adopted.

Draft bill
THE Ministry of Finance has reportedly finalised a draft bill revising the endorsed customs code to encourage re-export and allow the import of exported material during one year from the date of unloading the goods, instead of the currently enforced three-month deadline.

Contract to boost radio transmission

INFORMATION Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad yesterday signed a contract with a local company to modernise the main control division at Kuwait Radio and for construction of four modern studios.

The new contract comes within the ministry's effort to boost Kuwait Radio transmission to reach all over the world. The value of the contract estimated at KD700,000 and will be executed over a period of 18 months.

Sheikh Jaber said after the signing ceremony that the contract is intended to modernise and boost transmission at Kuwait Radio.

The picture at left: Sheikh Jaber and representative of the company signing the contract.



Shortage of students in engineering

THE assistant dean for students affairs at the Faculty of Engineering Dr Omar Al Saleh has said that there is a shortage of Kuwaiti students at the Department of Mechanical Engineering. He attributed it to a lack of information by students as to the objectives and programmes of department.

He told a local daily that the Department of Chemical Engineering had over the past years witnessed increased numbers of students, particularly among girls registering in the Department of Computer Engineering.

The majority of students still enrolled at the Department of Civil Engineering.

The faculty is planning to organise its relation with secondary schools, which would involve increased provision of

these schools with films and documents illustrating the significance and fields open to students wishing to join the Faculty's different departments. Saleh said.

He added that there is a plan to open a department for Petroleum Engineering, adding

that the dean is conducting intensive studies in this respect. He called on students to keep providing the dean with comments on the performance of teachers, whereby first-hand information could be available upon evaluation of successful and efficient teachers.

Three men sentenced

THE Criminal Court sentenced three men to three and a half years imprisonment with hard labour to be followed by deportation, for illegally entering the country and attempting to smuggle alcohol.

The court was told that security forces observed the suspects' car moving in a suspicious manner in the Mutla border area

and called for them to halt. However, the driver sped off and the police gave chase.

Due to mechanical problems, the vehicle of the convicts came to a halt. The accused tried to escape by hiding in some nearby sheds, but were apprehended by security forces.

A search of the vehicle revealed bottles of liquor.



Bangladesh Foreign Minister (centre) with HH the Amir (right).

Amir invited to Bangladesh

Dhaka assured of assistance

Arab Times report

VISITING Bangladesh Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud met HH the Amir of Kuwait yesterday and delivered a letter from President Hussain Muhammad Ershad.

The Amir praised Ershad's "pragmatic and moderating" role during the 1987 Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) summit in Kuwait.

The Amir has been invited to visit Bangladesh.

Mahmud also conveyed a message of thanks to the Amir from Ershad for the guardianship that has been offered to Bangladeshis working in Kuwait.

Mahmud praised Kuwait's role in the economic development of Bangladesh and expressed hope that Kuwait would continue its help.

The Amir assured Mahmud of continued assistance. Mahmud later held official talks with Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed on bilateral relations and regional and international issues.

He raised the "brotherly and historical links" between the two countries and said those links were crowned by the "distinguished bonds" between the Amir and Ershad.

Sheikh Sabah hoped that planned talks between Mahmud and Kuwait Fund for Economic Development officials would be successful and further contribute to strengthening of bilateral co-operation between the two countries.

Mahmud described his talks with Sheikh Sabah as "very good" and expressed appreciation and gratitude for the help that has been extended by Kuwait to Bangladesh.

He also reviewed the "brotherly and historical links" between the two countries and said those links were crowned by the "distinguished bonds" between the Amir and Ershad.

He recalled Kuwait's efforts in getting Bangladesh into the OIC in 1974.

He said: "Sheikh Sabah personally led the special delegation to bring the prime minister of Bangladesh to the OIC summit in Lahore, Pakistan."

Mahmud praised the role played by Kuwait as current chairman of the OIC.

He referred to Kuwait's mediation efforts to solve the dispute between Turkey and Bulgaria over rights of ethnic Turks.



Mahmud receiving Sheikh Sabah at the reception held at the Kuwait International Hotel. (Photo by Javed Basra)

He hoped that the second round of talks between the Turkish and Bulgarian foreign ministers due to start here today under the auspices of Sheikh Sabah would succeed in resolving the problem.

Mahmud also paid tribute to Kuwait's endeavours in strengthening "the Islamic umma (nation)". Mahmud said there was an outstanding invitation for HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah to visit Bangladesh.

The meeting between Sheikh Sabah and Mahmud was attended by Acting Foreign Undersecretary Anwar Al Hammad, Director of Asia and Africa Department at the Foreign Ministry Khaled Al Khader, Director of Sheikh Sabah's office Abdulla Saud Al Abdel Razzaq, Kuwait's Ambassador to Bangladesh Mohammed Ibrahim Al Najran and Bangladesh Ambassador to Kuwait K.M. Shehabuddin.

Sheikh Sabah hosted a luncheon in honour of Mahmud. Mahmud also held talks yesterday with Social Affairs and Labour Minister Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed.

Mahmud praised recent Amiri gesture of increasing salaries of government employees saying that many of about 74,000 Bangladesh nationals working in Kuwait would benefit

from the increase. He also thanked the Kuwaiti government for the care given to Bangladeshis workers.

Sheikh Nasser said his discussions with Mahmud tackled bilateral relations and means of boosting and strengthening them in various spheres.

Affairs of the Bangladeshi community in Kuwait was also reviewed. Sheikh Nasser said and asserted that "our Bangladeshi brethren are enjoying the government's care and attention as it is in the case with all expatriates and residents in Kuwait."

In response to a question on whether there was an agreement with Bangladesh for importing workers, Sheikh Nasser said "the Kuwaiti labour market is a free and open market and does not need such agreements."

Mahmud indicated that his country wants to send some more workers to Kuwait.

He said he had renewed an invitation to Sheikh Nasser to visit Bangladesh.

Mahmud held a reception yesterday evening in honour of Sheikh Sabah. The reception was attended by several ministers, high Kuwaiti officials and a large number of ambassadors.

The Bangladesh foreign minister will leave for Bahrain today.

3 held for shoplifting

SECURITY men of the Capital Governorate arrested three men identified as Ahmad M., Iraqi, Talal A. and Sadeq S., Kuwaitis for carrying out a number of thefts from various shops.

The culprits have been referred to authorities for investigation. On a complaint filed by Mohammad A., a Kuwaiti that a power generator was stolen from his parked car, Ahmadi security men carried out immediate investigation and successfully apprehended Talal A., Fahad S., Waleed M. and Marzouk K. — all Kuwaitis.

On investigations, the accused guided the police to a camp in the desert where the stolen generator was recovered.

Ahmadi security men also arrested Mohammad M., Khaled A., Abdullah S. and Hadi — all Kuwaitis for stealing a tent and its contents in the Mina Abdulla area.

The accused have been referred for investigation. Meanwhile, Hawalli securitymen arrested Tonga S. and Tracou S. — both Thai nationals for manufacturing and selling alcohol. Police sent a "decoy purchaser" who obtained a bottle on payment of KD5.

On completion of the deal, security forces raided the apartment and found several bottles of alcohol along with apparatus for distilling.

Arab unity discussed

(Continued from Page 1)

local, Arab or foreign investor about hindrances faced in the investment field with the aim of removing them immediately.

He renewed his government's determination to facilitate investment efforts and increase the flow of investment capital into the country.

Sedki said that President Mubarak was personally interested and had chaired two meetings held by the country's higher investment authority with the aim of eliminating hindrances before investment activities in Egypt and boosting the national economy to reach a stage of self-sufficiency and export.

Sheikh Saad later today visited the monument of the unknown soldier.

The Crown Prince, who was accompanied by head of the Mission of Honour Atef Obeid and Kuwait's ambassador in Cairo Abdul Razzak Al Kandari, was greeted by commander of the central military district, Cairo's governor and a number of officials.

After placing a wreath of flowers on the monument, Sheikh Saad visited the October war panorama at the city of Nasr, where he watched a live audio-visual presentation for events of the 1973 war, including the crossing of the Suez Canal by the Egyptian armed forces and the sea and air battles against the Israeli forces.

Earlier upon his arrival today in Cairo he was received by Premier Sedki, his deputies, ministers and head of the Honorary Mission Minister of Development and Cabinet Affairs Atef Obeid in addition to Kuwaiti ambassador to Egypt and Egyptian ambassador to Kuwait.

The national anthems of both countries were played followed by reviewing the guard of honour.

Plan to introduce new lingo studies

Scope for improvement

THE standard of graduates in the English language leaves a lot to be desired and there is immense scope for improvement, Dr Ilham Al Bassam, director of Linguistic Centre was quoted as saying.

In an interview with a local daily, the official attributed this shortcoming to the failure of students to adapt with the centre's curriculums within the prescribed period.

She urged students to join the centre at the outset of the first semester. She added that students should appreciate the fact that knowledge of foreign languages constitute a major element to deal with foreign references adequately.

Performance

Bassam recommended that periodical examinations be conducted to evaluate students performance from time to time.

Speaking on the centre's future plans, the official said that the centre's administration has recommended the formation of several committees which will group a choice of instructors and professors.

These committees will undertake the formulation of the centre's policies in addition to evaluating the curriculums in English, German, French and Arabic languages. Another committee will be formed for overseeing scholarships, educational methods, computer studies, translations and research.

The centre is seriously planning to introduce new language studies, including Persian and Spanish, Bassam said.



A training course for secretaries employed by Education Ministry was concluded yesterday at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, PAAET. The course started on Dec 16. The trainees pictured after the course.

كلمة الامير

Official complains of red tape hurdle

Kuwait's industrial progress

KHALED Naser Al Sanea, chairman of Kuwait Industrialists Union was quoted as saying that red tape and bureaucratic complications are the main obstacles to the development of Kuwait's industries.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that services extended by the state to industries are in need for major development, though services extended to the industrial areas are good. He commented that establishing of a government authority to look after the industrial areas in the country, will streamline procedures and added that establishing of this authority will support the national industry.

Speaking of the Industrialist Union founded recently, Sanea said that overlapping coincided with the increase in the number of factories in Kuwait. Additionally, the acceleration of the industrial process necessitated the forming of this union which is intended to serve as a link between industrialists and authorities concerned.

Speaking of the union's prospects, the official said that initially 21 members representing different types of industry in the country had joined the union. The union is seen as a connecting link between Kuwait industrialists and official authorities and to contribute to the relevant decision making process.

Meanwhile, Sanea who is also a member in the state's joint com-

mittee for reactivation of the national economy and who had formulated the part related to the industrial aspect in the committee report, described the recommendations as ideal and said that its implementation will give a distinguished impetus to the national industries.

He commented that the dumping policy followed by foreign companies in the Arab Gulf region is hurting the national industries. He was quoted as saying that the major foreign companies are manipulating their output to suffocate the national industries. He clarified that these companies had reduced prices and introduced new products to predominate the market irrespective of the quality.

He described the protection procedures provided by the government for the national industries as good, but recommended instituting a serious study for each industry to determine the specs of each industry and the viability of the prices. He clarified that if the authorities concerned realised that the relevant output was good and prices were reasonable, protection should be accorded.

Government procurements represent 80 per cent of purchasing power in the industrial field, hence, the government could support the national industries by giving them necessary priorities during the purchasing processes, Sanea said.

Sanea confirmed that the Kuwait industrialists were in agreement that Saudi Arabia and Iraq were constituting major markets for Kuwaiti exports in view of several considerations such as the proximity of the two countries to Kuwait and the resemblance of the consumptive tastes between these two countries and Kuwait.

On the other hand, the official has confirmed that the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry is not completely convinced to render support to the Kuwaiti industrialists, although it must extend every possible support to them and should throw its power in this direction. He described the services submitted by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry to the industrial section as insufficient.

He called on the Chamber to enhance its relations with the industrialists and not to spare any efforts in conveying their point of views to the authorities concerned.

Meanwhile, the official criticised the Industrial Bank of Kuwait and described its support to the national industry as insufficient. He clarified that this bank has been established for industrial purposes and not commercial and in this capacity the bank should submit the necessary support to its borrowers from the national plants.

Any cash shortage at any plant could be attributed to the Industrial Bank, Sanea said.

Special committee soon to look into the cases

Minister explains decision on marriages

THE Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs **Dari Abdullah Al Othman** has said that the actual implementation of the documentation law and the code on marriage magistrates (commonly known as Ma'zums) has faced problems due to the disinclination by the Ma'zums and the Department of Legal Documentation at the Court of Cassation to process the marriage contracts of stateless people and those who failed to produce proper identification documents, such as passports or ID-cards.

He said that the ministry felt impelled to intervene to settle this problem once and for all and find proper solutions, which soon found expression in the ministerial decision No. 61 for 1988. This revised the Ma'zums code, authorising them to

document the marriage contracts upon receipt of a written message from the relevant legal documentation authority or competent lawmen in Kuwait.

He pointed out that under this decision, stateless persons were enabled to document their marriage contracts by having to present two witnesses who could properly identify them.

Commenting on the current divorce rates in Kuwait, he said that no matter what the current rates were or whether they increased or decreased the ministry shall have to reconsider its existing reconciliation measures pursued with differing couples. Proper channels should be established to smooth over marriage obstacles and settle related disputes before potential

escalation could bring the marriage to the rocks, Othman said.

He added that the proposed system must basically rely on the teachings of Islam and the repeated efforts to sort out problems and differences between couples to avoid the high-frequency of using the most abhorrent right of the spouse in Islam, divorce.

Once the appropriate framework for this system had been set up and decided on, a draft law would be proposed for consideration and endorsement to regulate the workings of this system, the minister said.

Meanwhile, First Secretary at the Consular Administration in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, **Abdullah Issa Al Methan** explained a number of points which may have caused confusion among the public

with regards to the new decision calling for not permitting Kuwaitis from marrying foreigners.

He believes that the law will not only include Kuwaiti males but, will also include Kuwaiti females.

He added that a special committee will be formed in the near future consisting of a number of official parties to investigate each case where Kuwaiti males and females are married to non-Kuwaitis. The committee will be responsible for issuing permits for such marriages in the future.

He stated that if the law was put into implementation, all Kuwaiti citizens females and males will not be permitted to marry foreigners without the approval of Kuwaiti embassies abroad.

Naqib backs new schedule

Working hours at hospitals

A PROPOSAL, still under consideration to bring about a new schedule of work-hours for medical staff at the hospitals, has been supported by **Dr Naeel Al Naqib**, undersecretary at the Ministry of Public Health.

The official said that there are two proposals — one to start work at hospitals from 8.00 am to 4.00 pm or from 8.00 am to 2.00 pm. Till date, no final decision has been taken to treat Thursday as an official holiday, in addition to Friday. However, the official said that due consideration is given to this issue in view of the fact that no surgeries are performed on Thursdays and visits at outpatients are considerably fewer in number and work at labs and radiology rooms witness considerable reduction.

The official went on to state that medical committees do have meetings on Thursdays, the hospitals will receive urgent and emergency cases on these days and believed that the new system being proposed will not have adverse effects on the standards of services at hospitals.

Naqib clarified that the physician at the hospital is responsible for his patients even on Thursdays and Fridays and this in relation to the new proposed changes in the work-hours will not affect the well-being of patients.

The official went on to say that this proposal was submitted in 1979 and no one rejected the proposal — except the administrative staff, including the state.

He added that the minister of health has ordered that a study of the new work-hours be undertaken at the Mubarak Al Kabeer Hospital and the study will have to be presented to the state for approval. However, the official commented that the five-day working week at hospitals will be beneficial and provide the opportunity to offer better services to patients including to better usage of medical equipments.

Naqib pointed out that there is a probability to change the work hours system and shift system at the health centres. Several plans have been considered, one of which is to increase the number of physicians at certain hours and reduce their number in others.

He added that the ministry submitted a demand to the Civil Service Commission to appoint 273 nurses. However, an agreement has been reached to appoint only 173 nurses. The nursing staff in Kuwait are quite large in number, however, the problem lies in uneven distribution of these services, nurses being allocated administrative jobs and overlapping of functions, the official said.

He added that the ministry is studying the re-organisation of Sabah Hospital which is considered to be traditional in nature. The configuration of the hospital is not compatible with various work functions because there is no connection linking various departments.

For instance, Naqib said that the internal diseases building is separate from the surgery building and both are far from the paediatrics building.

The ministry is also expanding the present capacity of hospitals and the expansion is intended to cover the services envisaged during the coming five years. However, he clarified that if one intends to plan for medical services after ten or 15 years, new hospitals will be needed.

He denied that the ministry has prevented members of the National Anti-Aids Committee from giving statements to the local newspapers. He said that it was agreed that one person would be authorised from the committee to give such statements to avoid any contradictions in the media.

Commenting on medical mistakes, he said these are attributed to ignorance, unintentional mistakes or complications or in some extreme and rare cases to negligence.



A delegation of teachers from the College of Technological Studies visited the Kuwait Science Club to review the activities and scientific achievements of members. The delegation, headed by Dr Ahmad Jassem was received by senior club members.

Supply disruption causes increase

Fruit, vegetables prices hike

THE normal daily requirements of Kuwait's Vegetable and Fruit Market estimated at 1,120 tons brought in by 70 vehicles was disrupted last Sunday and Monday.

People were surprised to see no vehicles in the market on these two days and eventually they failed to get their requirements of fruits and vegetables.

However, on Tuesday a very large quantity of vegetables and fruits estimated at 3,100 tons were unloaded in the market.

In both cases, the consumer is the only victim — in the first case, due to the scarcity of vegetables and fruits and in the second a large part of the consignment had deteriorated, due to the delay in transporting and unloading.

In the first instance, the consumer paid exorbitant prices due to scarcity and ensuing demand and in the second, consumers again paid high prices for damaged goods as owners did not reduce their prices to make up for previous losses.

To highlight this issue and its consequences, a local daily interviewed a number of importers and customers.

Naser Ghaith, an official at the Vegetable and Fruit Market,

said that the overland transport vehicles for the first time had been prevented on arriving on New Year's Day. He added that last Friday also no fresh quantities had arrived in the market.

He attributed this to vehicles being seized for one week by a neighbouring country as some contraband was found in some consignments.

He attributed the high prices to the lack of arrival of big quantities of vegetables and fruits and acknowledged that a large consignment of imported fruits and vegetables were damaged and losses estimated at 30 per cent — particularly in lettuce, vegetable marrow and cucumber.

He disclosed that for example a box of cucumbers was sold at KD 5 last Monday and reduced to KD 2 on Wednesday, while the box of eggplants sold on Monday at KD 2 was sold at 0.750 filis the previous day.

Replying to a question over the high prices prevailing in the market, the official called for the review of the stalls rent and described them as high.

Tamam Shaker, an importer with 30 years' experience in the field said that the market received no goods last Monday and Tuesday and this had resulted in price increase.

He confirmed that the high rent of the stalls were affecting the prices and mostly causing an increase of 30 per cent at least.

Importer **Riad Al Samad** said that the goods had been delayed for three days and this had considerably affected the prices of the vegetables and fruits at the markets.

Yusuf Al Jamal said that during last Sunday and Monday he failed to purchase any kind of vegetables or fruits as the prices were exorbitant.

Farhan Al Einazi called for the protection of the consumer from this phenomenon, citing, for example, that a box of mandarin was sold at KD 4 during these two days.

Meanwhile, the general controller of the supermarkets at Shuwaikh and Jahra areas **Mohammed Al Mishan** attributed this phenomenon to unforeseen circumstances which were represented by non-arrival of the imported goods. He said, according to the official statistics, 53 vehicles arrived in the country last Saturday and were carrying about 850 tons of vegetables and fruit, 18 vehicles on Sunday with 288 tons and 194 vehicles with 3,100 tons.

Press hails Premier's historic Cairo visit

CAIRO, Jan 8, (Kuna): The visit of Kuwait's Crown Prince and Prime Minister **HH Sheikh Nasser bin Abdulrahman Al Sabah** was welcomed by Egyptian press, praising relations between the two countries.

Al Akhbar newspaper hailed Kuwait's stance towards Egypt and welcomed the Crown Prince to his second home, Egypt.

It said talks between the two sides would cover bilateral relations as well as other regional and international development.

"The experiment of the past ten years has proved that Egypt is indispensable to the Arabs," a Kuwaiti newspaper said today. At the same time, "Egypt can not remain too far from its Arab brothers regardless of changeable Arab policies," the daily commented editorially.

"The visit reiterates the keenness of the Kuwaiti leadership to maintain the bridges and links between the two fraternal states," the paper stressed.

Kuwait severed its diplomatic relations with Egypt after an Arab summit decided to postpone relations with Egypt for signing a peace treaty with Israel in 1979. The relations were restored between Kuwait and Egypt in November 1987.

Kuwaiti officials maintain that official contacts between Cairo and Kuwait were only marginally affected by the rupture of relations and all aspects of joint work have not been interrupted.

"National facts continue to be more powerful than political developments. This fact have been realised by the Arabs a little late which led to wasting opportunities and dispersing efforts," the daily emphasised.

Today's visit of Sheikh Nasser, the paper concluded, "will realise a qualitative transmission on the path of mutual interest, especially that there is a comprehensive desire to translate political views of the Kuwaiti and Egyptian leaderships into a joint formula of Arab collective co-operation."



Graduation ceremony

The Manuscripts Institute of the Arab Organisation for Education, Culture and Science (AOECS) held a ceremony for the graduates. The ceremony was attended by the Education Undersecretary **Abdul-Rahman Al Khudari** and dean of faculty of arts of Kuwait University the general co-ordinator of the course **Dr Sulaiman Al Bader**. The director of the institute **Mahmoud Al Ghunaim** said the institute, established in 1946, organised many training courses to qualify the new Arab generations to preserve the Arab heritage. The present course in Kuwait was the 7th of its kind. Previous courses were held in Syria, Iraq and Egypt. Similar courses will be held in other Arab states in future, he said. The course held in Kuwait focused on the Arab manuscripts in medicine, maths and arts. Undersecretary **Al Khudari** distributed the prizes and certificates.

GCC communications meet

RIYADH, Jan 8, (Kuna): A meeting for communication undersecretaries today started in GCC headquarters here to prepare for the fifth meeting of communication ministers at GCC due to open next Wednesday in the Saudi capital.

A statement by the council's secretariat general said that the preliminary meeting will deal with the integration of communication networks in the six states, rates of communications services as well as co-ordination and co-operation in fields of post.

Kuwait Communications Minister **Abdullah Al-Sharhan** told Kuna today the ministerial meeting will study and endorse recommendations prepared by the joint work team that comprised

ministries of communications in GCC states and Arab states as well as the technical office of communications.

The minister added that they would also review a GCC information ministers report on reception dishes and co-ordination in different fields of communications.

Al-Sharhan added that Kuwait delegation will submit a working paper on data system management, and providing mobile station services to GCC.

The working paper also includes a proposal on the setting up of a permanent committee to follow up the proposed plans and training programmes for GCC states.

Bayan residents praise services

Demand to improve security

MOST residents at Bayan Area praised the level of services and public utilities at the area. They shed their criticism for the irresponsible activities of some youths who recklessly cause annoyance and disturbance to the residents.

Interviewed by a local daily, most of the residents stressed the performance of Kuwait Municipality, the clinic and co-operative society at the area for their role in serving residents.

Qais Bu Nashi, the manager of the night service at Bayan Co-operative Society stated that the society's board of directors decided to expand the night service branch to cover residents requirements. He said that the current branch is small and has huge quantities of goods and high number of customers. He stated that the society provides residents with all their requirements.

With respect to the main problems they face as area residents, he said that reckless youths are a big problem to most residents particularly during weekends and official holidays. He stressed that the society should provide the night branch of Bayan society with security at all times.

On the other hand, he indicated that night branch has encountered many shop-lifting incidents mostly

by children.

Regarding Bayan afforestation plans, he said that Bayan Area is considered one of the greenest areas and that most residents pay full attention towards landscaping their houses and sidewalks.

Redha Al Shati stated that Bayan Area is clean. He praised services provided by Bayan Co-operative Society adding that the night branch requires expansions and organisation.

He said closing the post office at 1:40 pm daily is inadequate for many residents. He hoped that the post office will remain in operation for further hours.

Mahmoud Al Saraf stressed that cleanliness of the area is the sole responsibility of residents. He called upon residents to put more efforts into afforestation plans. He added that the co-operative society provides good deals on commodities but still requires organising and expansion, particularly the night garden. He proposed the establishment of a public garden and a number of bus stations.

Dr Adnan Kharabit said that he first wants to praise the services of the clinic and its performance. He said that the health services are excellent in the protective and treatment fields.

Kuwait's oldest drug dealer tells his story of nightmares, personal ruin, disgrace

A LOCAL daily interviewed one of the inmates at Kuwait's Central Prison who said that he was born in 1931 and has spent most of his life behind bars due to his involvement in drugs.

He said that he is the oldest narcotics dealer in prison and the only one among his other friends still alive. "All my friends died young and very miserable deaths due to their involvement with drugs."

On the personal level, he said that narcotics has caused him "nightmares, incarceration, personal ruin and disgrace to his family." In a nutshell, he said, "I cannot even succeed in scratching the surface of the unquantifiable harm narcotics produce in those who are foolish to try it once."

Coming from a narcotic user and

dealer, this is very forceful warning of the dire perils of "fooling around" with narcotics, the daily added.

Returning to the story of the convict, he said that he was married in India to a daughter of a narcotics dealer in Delhi and returned to the country. His marriage produced four sons — he has not seen either of them for the past 20 years. He said that he used to live with his 85-year-old mother in the Dasma area.

Even though he is a Kuwaiti, he disclosed that he has never tried to obtain a driving licence, nor a passport, health card, civil identification or a job. He never attended school — though he does know to write his name and his father's.

His father died when he was 4 months old and he was adopted by his stepfather. He said that his first time with nar-

cotics was during the end of 1940's, at that time there weren't many vehicles in the country like today, he added. He had a carriage towed by a donkey and used it to collect garbage with others working for a well known merchant.

One day while sitting with a friend, and having tea, his friend put something which he did know in his cup and told him that it would bring joy. This was the first time he took opium. His friend kept insisting that he take more until he became an addict. He added that he couldn't work or move without taking opium. He then met the oldest narcotics dealer in Kuwait who owned a tea stall inside Kuwait souk. Along with the tea he sold opium, particularly to old ladies who had sexual weaknesses. He also met another narcotics dealer who sold the

same drug. He pointed out that at that time opium yielded good profits and was expensive compared with salaries and wages paid to labourers and employees. He said that opium in Kuwait was not prohibited and was given to children with sugar added to it to make them sleep faster.

The first time he ever sold narcotics was in 1953.

He started travelling to Basra, and on one occasion was arrested by border security men and was put into jail for fifteen days. He said that at that time law related to trading and indulging in narcotics did not exist in Kuwait. He left the prison and again started dealing in narcotics which he brought through sea and land. He used to smuggle narcotics several times a year and was arrested

several times because of disturbance and fights while being under the influence of narcotics.

Now he is in prison because he physically assaulted a dentist at the clinic while being under the influence. He was sentenced for two years.

He said that he has three other step brothers who are now working and holding good posts. He said that his step father tried to raise him well but failed to do so.

He said that the biggest amount of narcotics he smuggled into country was with a value of KD250,000. He was able to smuggle the amount with the assistance of an Arab who hid the drug inside secret compartments inside his vehicle. They were arrested while distributing the drug inside the country.

BAHRAIN DIGEST

Bahrainisation yields satisfactory results

IN A bid to promote Bahrainisation by providing employment to increasing number of nationals in the private sector a top labour official has called for more extensive use of Arabic in private firms. According to Director of Labour, **Abdul Rahman Zayani**, increasing use of Arabic in the private sector will help to promote employment of Bahrainis and other Arabs. This move he said will gradually reduce dependence on English as the link language in firms employing nationals with diverse language as more Bahrainis begin to fill up jobs in private firms.

In order to accelerate the Bahrainisation policy the government instructed about 750 private companies last year to replace a specific number of expatriates with nationals in suitable job categories over the next five years, said Zayani.

The Director of Labour said that Bahrainisation plan seeks to place at least 20,000 Bahrainis in 60,000 job positions currently held by expatriates over the next five years, an average of 4000 Bahrainis expected to find jobs each year.

Implementation of the scheme is being strictly monitored. The Labour Ministry must report to the cabinet every six months on progress achieved. The first report is expected to be submitted in the current month and will detail the placement of over 2000 Bahrainis in employment.

In view of national workers preference for certain jobs the government has authorised employers to give priority for Bahrainis in fields such as accountancy, nursing, computer operations, sales and clerical jobs. Nationals are not said to be too enthusiastic about hotel jobs.

The Bahrainisation policy has already yielded satisfactory results according to Zayani. In the first nine months of the year the labour and social affairs ministry found jobs for 2470 nationals. Of these jobs 2192 or 88.7 per cent were for males and 278 for females. The majority of jobs were in manual grades.

Bahrain's workforce is expected to increase by about 24,000 nationals over the next five years. The bulk of this figure will include university graduates and school-leavers. Under the Bahrainisation programme private firms have been given adequate time to replace expatriates with nationals in specific job categories. The period includes training for nationals in specific jobs so that there is no excuse for not implementing the government's policy.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

ASK the young, they know everything — Chinese proverb.

Emerging from jungle

O'TRAO, Thailand, (AP): Khmer Rouge guerrillas are letting thousands of Cambodian refugees leave malarial jungles along the Thai-Cambodian border to get food and medical care, and to tell of their lives in hidden camps.

In the past year, the Khmer Rouge, which massacred Cambodians in the 1970s, has let almost 30,000 refugees from military-run settlements go to two civilian camps overseen by UN officials, O'Trao and Site K. Thousands more are expected to resettle there soon.

This is the first major break-up of the highly secretive system of "hidden" camps where virtually the only outside have been Thai military intelligence officers. Before, the 30,000 people at the Site 8 camp that opened in 1985 were the only Khmer Rouge civilians to whom aid workers had unrestricted access.

"We have been fighting for years to get access to people like the ones we finally have in Site K," said Patrick Van de Velde, deputy director of the UN border relief operation.

However, Western officials say up to 100,000 civilians remain in the hidden camps and large numbers die of preventable and treatable diseases, especially malaria, besides being denied a proper education and other UN aid.

Refugees also have claimed that authorities force children to porter arms to the front, where the Khmer Rouge is fighting alongside two other rebel groups against Vietnamese-backed Cambodian troops.

But at O'Trao, which was closed for a month after the Khmer Rouge burned down the foreign hospital on Christmas 1988, an astonishing reversal of policy created one of the frontier's most open camps.

If the Khmer Rouge once believed in isolating their people to control them, they have now given up in this serene village of bamboo and palm leaf huts where refugees speak openly with foreign reporters, study UN developed textbooks and watch Thai television with its many Hong Kong, Japanese and US programmes.

Most refugees walked to O'Trao for its safety and better medical care.

"Where ever I can live peacefully, I like it," said a smiling Mee Suan, 44, who came with her husband and five children. They spent the past decade constantly evading enemy attacks, and everywhere there was disease.

The Khmer Rouge is the largest guerrilla group fighting Cambodia's Vietnamese-installed government. They took the civilians with them the Thai border after Vietnamese forces invaded Cambodia in December 1978 and ended a 3 1/2 year Khmer Rouge rule in which hundreds of thousands of people died in execution chambers and slave labour camps.

A diplomat said relatively few refugees flee the camps because most were "base people" who have been under Khmer Rouge control for years and generally were not as abused as others during their 1975-78 rule.

The refugees "don't care about ideology," he said. "The Khmer Rouge give them security

and they give them security and they give them care.... they stay with the Khmer Rouge because the Khmer Rouge tells them two main things: No.1, we fight for Sihanouk and No.2, the Vietnamese are taking away our land."

Aid officials said the guerrillas may have shifted policies in response to their increasing isolation worldwide, or because their more moderate leaders are gaining influence. They also see pressure from Thailand, which has been urging peace in Cambodia and tightening control over Khmer Rouge elements on its soil.

Interviews with refugees from the hidden camps has led the officials to tone down their once extremely bleak impression of life there. They said the Khmer Rouge tried to take care of the hidden people since most are arms porters or families of soldiers.

The guerrillas also are allowing more people in the hidden camps to visit the UN camps for medical treatment or to see relatives. Mey Mann, an education advisor of the Khmer Rouge administration of Site 8, said 100 children living in hidden camps went to school in Site 8 last year.

Indeed, aid officials consider the UN-aided Khmer Rouge camps much better than the oppressive camps of the non-communist forces of Prince Norodom Sihanouk and of Son Sann.

OEE, a Site 8 administrator, said people at his camp may be moved towards the border when it is safe. In recent months many civilians from nearby hidden camps have moved towards areas inside Cambodia: the guerrillas just seized. Most appear to be families following the soldiers.

However, aid officials say the UN camps already have produced irreversible changes in the Khmer Rouge civilian base.

"The teachers that we have trained in Site 8 have created a new group of liberal opinion makers," said one official. "Before, the military authorities had a monopoly on information."

UN officials now work in four Khmer Rouge camps with a total of about 66,000 refugees: O'Trao along the northern border sector and Site 8, Borai and Site K in the south. The only restrictions are in Borai, where some refugees are not allowed to be evacuated to a Red Cross hospital.

Hundreds of civilians were believed hurt when artillery gunners pounded a hidden camp along the northern border and two in the south, but the Khmer Rouge did not allow the Red Cross to evacuate any victims.

Between June and August, foreign doctors at Site 8 were shocked to see 35 polio victims under 5 years old brought in from three hidden military-run camps. Three children died, 31 were paralyzed, and their mothers said other victims never made it to Site 8.

Doctors later were allowed to vaccinate 10,000 children from the camps around Site 8. The Khmer Rouge also allowed vaccinations of about 500 children from Ang Kbal Leov, a hidden camp in the north. In both cases, doctors set up tents outside the camps and could not enter.



Burning tankers

Memory of burning tankers is a constant reminder of just how quickly Gulf's cares can become the world's problem. In the above picture fire-fighting tugs hose water onto the blazing stern of the Norwegian oil tanker "Happy Karl" after it was attacked by an Iranian frigate in the southern Gulf during the Iran-Iraq war.

Israel finds haven in Lebanon

Outposts in the security zone given to SLA

MARI AYOON, Lebanon, (UPI): Israel seeks to portray its security zone in southern Lebanon, 38 miles (61 km) from Beirut, as a haven rising out of the disorder of a nation split by civil war.

It also is Israel's hedge against attacks on its northern settlements.

To maintain its control over the zone, Israel props up the South Lebanon Army with training, weapons and money. While observers estimate 1,000 Israeli soldiers are in the zone, the SLA force numbers 3,000. This month, the Israeli press reported the military had handed over outposts in the zone to the SLA in an effort to "minimize" the Israeli presence in Lebanon.

"The day we will be facing only Lebanese opponents, we shall be able to do without the backing of the IDF," Gen. Antoine Lahad, SLA commander, said recently during a rare meeting with foreign journalists. "In fact, we are facing mostly the Syrians who are in the Bekaa, and that's why we need the backing of the IDF, whose presence is in any case very much limited."

But some observers argue the SLA is the cost-effective creation of Israel for its own protection. When Israel withdrew from Lebanon in 1985 three years after it invaded deep into Lebanon, it designed a "security zone" and poured its support into the SLA.

The buffer zone was not a new idea. It emerged in the late 1970s, around the time of an earlier, more limited Israeli invasion of south Lebanon, as part of attempts by Christian Lebanese Forces to establish a cordon line of Palestinian commando raids.

Israel, at first secretly and then more openly, assisted those forces, which eventually became the SLA. An estimated \$4 million is provided by Israel for the civil administration of the zone, but officials declined comment on how much the military support costs.

Within the zone also are units of the UN interim force in Lebanon, sent to south Lebanon in 1978 to supervise the ceasefire and withdrawal of Israeli forces and to assist the Lebanese government to reassert its effective control. SLA and Israeli forces occasionally find themselves at odds with the UN troops, such as when a Norwegian soldier killed an SLA militiaman during a firefight in November at a UNIFIL checkpoint.

The security zone extends roughly 3 to 9 miles (5-15 km) north of the Israeli border. But the northern border of the zone itself is flexible when Israel decides to weed out areas it considers commando strongholds. In May 1988, dozens of Israeli and SLA soldiers advanced on Meidoun, a stronghold of Hezbollah, 14 miles (23 km) north of the Israeli border and outside the security zone.

Shortly after the three-day Meidoun operation, Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Israel could not allow "terrorist elements" to remain in the security zone or in adjoining areas.

"As long as there is no government or military force in Lebanon" with which to reach an understanding concerning cross-border attacks, Israel will remain in the security zone, Rabin said.

"Peace for Galilee," the name also given to Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon to oust PLO commandos, is only attained through "persistent fighting," Rabin said.

Confrontations within the zone and along the border have declined during the past year. An estimated 700 operations were carried out against SLA and Israeli targets in 1988, compared to approximately 330 by end of November last year. One reason may be the PLO's denunciation of terrorism and acceptance of Israel's right to exist, although radical PLO-affiliated groups continue their operations against Israeli targets.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

'Comecon must be reformed or it will die'

BUCHAREST, Jan 8, (Reuters): Romania said today that Comecon, the Soviet-led East bloc economic alliance, must undergo radical reform or die.

Aurel Munteanu, spokesman for Romania's ruling National Salvation Front, told a news conference provisional Prime Minister Petre Roman would join other Comecon heads of government in Sofia on Tuesday to discuss the group's future.

"Our idea is that Comecon is obsolete. It never functioned properly and it is not functioning properly now, either," he said. "We must improve it and it has to change if it is to have any chance of survival."

Comecon includes Eastern European countries, the Soviet Union, Vietnam, Cuba and Mongolia.

Munteanu said the basis of the trading bloc was unfair.

"It was not built on an equal basis. It had, and still has, the Soviet Union on one side and the small brothers on the other. This must be changed," he said.

Munteanu said the government had started negotiations with the European Economic Community for aid to help Romania overcome serious food supply problems which have become acute as a result of freezing winter weather.

"We are negotiating with the EEC to ensure we have enough to see our people through the winter," Munteanu said.

In some parts of the country there were only enough food and energy reserves to last 10 days, he added.

Azerbaijan seeks trade with Turkey

ANKARA, Jan 8, (Reuters): The Prime Minister of Soviet Azerbaijan, scene of violent agitation for closer ties with Iran, said today his republic wanted to expand relations with neighbouring Turkey.

"We have great resources, we must improve our trade volume," Premier Ayaz Niyazoglu Mutalibov told reporters on arrival in Ankara to discuss a planned frontier crossing between east Turkey and Azerbaijan's Nakhichevan autonomous region.

Mainly Shiite Muslim Soviet Azeris, demanding more contacts with Azeris in neighbouring Iran, have torn down border posts in Nakhichevan in protests that began a week ago.

UAE firm signs pact

MARRAKESH, Jan 8, (Reuters): The United Arab Emirates (UAE) company Liwa signed an accord today with the Euro-Japanese company Intercontinental for the management of five hotels in Morocco.

Officials said two billion dirhams (\$247 million) would be spent on renovating and enlarging hotels in Marrakesh, Fez, Agadir and Rabat and construction of a fifth in Casablanca.

Dr Mansour Al Otaiba, UAE minister of petroleum and mineral resources who is also president of Liwa, said the deal was finalised in Marrakesh after seven months of negotiations with Intercontinental.

Otaiba said Liwa, created in May 1989, also planned to invest in Moroccan fisheries, agriculture and air transport.

Gas price formula

THE Government of Pakistan has adopted a new gas producer price formula linked to international border price of fuel oil in order to stimulate exploration and development of offshore concession areas.

The new pricing formula will apply to all non-associated gas produced from concessions signed on or after July 1, 1989. Under the new formula, the price to be paid to the producers for pipeline quality gas delivered at existing gas transmission facilities at Karachi will be equal to the border price of fuel oil on energy content basis less negotiated discount.

IDB credit

NICOSIA, Jan 8, (Reuters): The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) said today it had agreed a \$10-million foreign trade credit for Bangladesh to finance the import of urea fertiliser from an IDB member.

Political tension weakens Lebanese pound

BEIRUT, Jan 8, (Reuters): A power struggle between two rival administrations in Lebanon is harming the international value of the country's currency, already weakened by a chronic economic crisis.

The Central Bank posted the pound today at 560 to the dollar compared to last Friday's close of 540, a loss of 20 points.

"The main reason behind the lessening value of the pound is the collapsing

economy which resulted from 14 years of civil war but the latest political and military tension is acting as a catalyst," said economic expert Fouad Chbaqlo.

"What makes the situation even worse is the lack of faith in Lebanon's economy... people have no hope that a solution to the country's chronic problems is near... the pound will lose even more value in the coming days," he said.

The value of the pound rose to 413 to

the dollar after a ceasefire last September ended six months of fierce fighting between Christian troops, led by defiant General Michel Aoun, and Syrian and Muslim forces in Lebanon.

But the currency began losing value again as Lebanon's two rival cabinets — one led by Aoun in Christian East Beirut and the other headed by Syrian-backed President Elias Hrawi in Muslim West Beirut — struggled for power.

The government has not been able to

collect most taxes since civil war erupted in 1975. Part of the economic infrastructure has been destroyed and economic activity completely stopped during last year's six months of fighting.

Central Bank sources said money borrowed by the government from the public sector to cover its expenditure has reached some 1,000 billion Lebanese pounds (about \$1.78 billion) — more than one third the value of Lebanon's gold and foreign reserves.

Lebanon has 9.2 million ounces of

gold and \$1,180 million of foreign reserves.

The Central Bank is not intervening strongly in the market to try to maintain a stable value for the pound, but normally pumps a few million dollars in daily to satisfy demand for the US currency, Central Bank sources said.

Today, demand in the foreign exchange market led to at least \$25 million changing hands.

"The Central Bank does not want to

consume its foreign reserves to stabilise the value of the pound because it knows that the market can't be controlled with present deteriorating situation in Lebanon," said economic analyst Adnan Kamel.

The local currency touched its lowest international value in 1987 when it reached 620 pounds to the dollar. Before the civil war the rate was around three pounds to the dollar.

"It is going to be an economically difficult year," said Chbaqlo.

Co-operation with EEC promotes Euro-Arab link: Oapec

Saudis seek joint venture operations

KUWAIT, Jan 8, (AP): The Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries said today its co-operation with the European Economic Community over the past decade should promote Euro-Arab understanding.

"For 11 years, Oapec has been pursuing a dialogue with the energy directorate of the European Commission," said an editorial in the January issue of Oapec's monthly bulletin.

"A new set of parameters has been introduced, reflecting structural shifts in both economic and political spheres. These parameters, along with a more mature perception of events, should contribute to better Euro-Arab understanding," it added.

The editorial said investment by Oapec members in the European refining industry "added new dimensions to the mutual interests already existing between the EEC and Oapec."

This was a reference to the takeover of refining and distribution operations in EEC countries.

Kuwait purchased and

New oil, gas find

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia, Jan 8, (AP): Saudi Arabian Oil Co. announced today the discovery of a gas and oil field, the third find in six months in the world's largest oil exporter.

The announcement from Saudi Aramco headquarters in Dhahran said the strike, in the Raghib area around 123 kilometres (77 miles) southeast of the Saudi capital of Riyadh, was commercially viable.

Testing on Jan 1 showed Raghib-1 well could produce 3,650 barrels per day, while gas could be produced at the rate of 10 million cubic feet per day, it said. The well was spudded on Nov 19.

The announcement, distributed by the official Saudi Press Agency, said the oil was of the high-quality, sulphur-free crude oil found earlier in the year in the Dilam and Al Hawrah discoveries.

Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer said Friday that the new oil discoveries south of Riyadh produced oil of the highest quality which could raise Saudi Arabia's per barrel oil income by \$1 to \$2.

The tested Raghib formation was at a depth of between 8,023-8,138 metres (yards), said the announcement. Further drilling was planned to determine the reserves.

The kingdom already boasts the world's largest single oil reserves which its updated estimates of last year put at 252 billion barrels. Saudi Aramco has recently intensified its search for new oil deposits in the centre of the kingdom, away from the massive producing fields along the Gulf coast.

The company will continue seismic surveys and drilling to determine

the relationship between the Raghib strike and the earlier discoveries at Dilam and Al Hawrah, the announcement said.

Saudi Aramco said Raghib-1 is located 27 kilometres (17 miles) south of the Dilam-1 discovery well and 95 kilometres (59 miles) north of the Al Hawrah-1 strike, it said.

mark with a total capacity of 125,000 barrels a day, as well as about 3,000 petrol stations.

Saudi Arabian Oil Minister

Hisham Nazer recently disclosed that his country, the world's largest oil exporter, was seeking joint ventures in downstream

operations in Europe as well as in Asia. Saudi Arabia's first such venture was in the United States in 1988.

Oapec groups 11 Arab oil producers. Seven of them — Algeria, Kuwait, Iraq, Libya, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia — also are members of the international organisation, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

The other four are Bahrain, Egypt, Syria and Tunisia.

The Arab world has long sought closer co-operation with EEC. But some Oapec members have been complaining about EEC tariffs on their nascent petrochemical sales to the community.

They also are concerned about the impact of the single European market that will emerge in 1992.

The Oapec Bulletin pointed out that "the comparative advantage of most Oapec members is derived from their petroleum base, so, for them securing free market access for their products is of vital importance."

The dollar closed in London at 1.6670 marks, its lowest since April 21, 1988, and more than one penny down from Friday's finish of 1.6795.

Against the Japanese yen, it was little changed at 144.05 after 143.75.

In Frankfurt the mark closed at 1.1575 marks per 100 yen, its highest against the Japanese currency since April 1984. It ended Friday at 1.1678.

The Japanese are moving out of the dollar but they are moving into the mark rather than back into the yen," said Chris Zwermann, treasurer of West German Bank Sal Oppenheim Et Cie.

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The dollar closed in London at 1.6670 marks, its lowest since April 21, 1988, and more than one penny down from Friday's finish of 1.6795.

Against the Japanese yen, it was little changed at 144.05 after 143.75.

In Frankfurt the mark closed at 1.1575 marks per 100 yen, its highest against the Japanese currency since April 1984. It ended Friday at 1.1678.

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Bank sees high growth for Japan

TOKYO, Jan 8, (UPI): The Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan today predicted a 4.7 per cent growth for the Japanese economy in fiscal 1990, led by robust personal consumption resulting from high-rate wage increases.

One of Japan's three major long-term credit banks said personal consumption will expand at a high rate of 4.8 per cent because real disposable income will grow at a fairly high rate due to rising wages brought on by a tight supply in the labour market.

The bank said housing investment will decline for the first time since 1983 partly because of rising interest rates on loans. Rising prices will also increase the difficulty of purchasing homes, it said.

Japan's exports will remain bearish due to slow recovery in overseas markets, including the United States and East Asian countries, and expanding overseas production by Japanese manufacturers, the bank said.

It predicted Japan's imports will remain bullish on the strength of brisk demand particularly from machinery, food and textile industries.

The bank said Japan's global trade surplus will increase slightly from 1989 to \$79 billion despite a strong yen but its current account surplus, which covers both merchandise and service trade, will decrease marginally to \$56.8 billion, marking the fourth straight year-on-year fall.

Wholesale prices will remain stable, marking a 0.4 per cent rise, but consumer prices will climb 1.9 per cent due to increased costs of labour and real estate, the bank said.

The bank said personal consumption in fiscal 1990 is estimated at a total of about 200 trillion yen (\$1.38 trillion), up 4.8 per cent over fiscal 1989.

Housing investment will decline 1.3 per cent to 21.3 trillion yen (\$147.4 billion), it said.

Price hikes announced

BUDAPEST, Hungary, Jan 8, (AP): The government announced a range of consumer price hikes yesterday that will make most basic consumer items more than 25 per cent more expensive, the state news agency MTI reported.

Meat prices are to rise by 32 per cent, bread by 26 per cent and milk and dairy products 42-43 per cent, the state news agency MTI quoted from a government statement.

Some of the increases will result from an end to state price controls. The new policy is part of an austerity budget adopted by parliament last month.

The cost of cigarettes, beer and spirits is to rise by 20-22 per cent, while rents will rise by 35 per cent as subsidies are withdrawn, MTI said.

Hungarians will have to pay 45 per cent more for urban public transport, and 55 per cent more for mass transit in the Budapest area. Inter-city road and rail fares are to go up by 20 per cent, MTI said.

The cost of some imported cars will rise 25 per cent, while regular gasoline will cost 29.5 forints a liter, a hike of 3.50 forints (5 cents).

Most of the price hikes were to take effect today, with some going into effect Feb 1, MTI reported.

Bank to issue new shares

TOKYO, Jan 8, (UPI): Sumitomo Bank, a major Japanese commercial bank, said today it will issue about 311 million new shares in February and May to raise the company's operation funds.

The Tokyo-based bank said 169,732,943 new shares equivalent to 6.0 per cent of total outstanding shares will be allotted to shareholders of record as of Feb 5 at a ratio of 6 to 100 shares owned.

The issue price will be 1,850 yen (\$78.1) per share with payment due on March 31, the company said.

The bank said 141,444,119 new shares, which amount to 5.0 per cent of the total outstanding shares, will be issued for distribution to shareholders at a ratio of 5 to 100 shares.

The issue price will be 50 yen (\$34.6) per share, it said.

The bank said its shares outstanding as of Dec 19, 1989, totalled 2,828,882,391.

'Role of computers in markets' recent volatility is more hype than reality

Future face of financial markets could be a screen

LONDON, Jan 8, (Reuters): The face of the financial markets in the next decade may not be a face at all, but a computer screen, as layers of automation spread through every level of trading.

A combination of screen-based exchanges, powerful desktop computers, artificial intelligence and digital communications will give dealers instant access to huge amounts of data, offer instant analysis on desktop screens and permit buy and sell orders to be executed at a keystroke.

Much media and regulatory body attention has been focused on "programme trading," the computer-triggered purchase or sale of groups of stock when prices hit a pre-determined level.

A survey by the American Stock Exchange released in October found most investors blamed programme trading for "ruining" the stock market, but experts said the role of computers in the financial markets' recent volatility is more hype than reality.

In fact the most prominent use of computers is as "enabling technologies"—that is, letting dealers per-

form existing tasks more efficiently rather than eliminating them or the tasks.

"There is really not an awful lot of computerised trading, despite all the attention given to programme trading," said Mark Jones, a director of the London consulting firm Infact Ltd.

"What there is is an awful lot of computer-based support for traditional trading, and that will be true for some time to come," he added.

Financial automation consultants say the key development in the markets over the next few years will be the integration at the dealer's desk of external information, such as prices, and internal information, such as research.

Most dealers at present receive external information on a so-called dumb terminal—one with no intrinsic processing power—by way of a video signal which cannot be manipulated.

But in the 1990s most industrialised nations expect to have a fully digital public telephone network as a result of standardised technology called Integrated Services Digital Network

(ISDN) which can move data as quickly as voice.

External data received on a digital feed can then be manipulated on the personal computers found on up to 77 per cent of dealers' desks, according to one survey.

ISDN and falling prices are expected to boost demand for far more powerful personal workstations, the type now used by engineers and scientists, that offer highly refined graphics and the processing power of a minicomputer.

The high price of these workstations has so far limited demand. Sun Microsystems Inc computers favoured by dealers cost about \$40,000 (£24,500) each, as do similar systems from Digital Equipment Corp and Apollo Computer, a subsidiary of Hewlett-Packard Inc.

But last year Sun announced an entry level system with many of the same capabilities for about \$15,000 (£9,200) that could accelerate installations.

These workstations allow dealers to monitor several different trading instruments at the same time, order up "What-if?" scenarios instantaneously

that once took days or weeks, and manipulate information from a variety of sources.

It is only one step further to imagine computers actually programmed to execute the trades by matching bids to offers.

Robin Baldwin, director of International Bond Research at UBS/Phillips Drew, predicted "staggering advances" in data and communications technology could make this possible.

"By the year 2000, trading methods will be substantially different to those in existence today," he said. "Transactions would be conducted on a worldwide electronic exchange, using touch screens and intelligent terminals that automatically generate all necessary back office and management information."

"Could this signal the end of open-outcry trading as we know it?" Baldwin asked.

Experts say it will be some years, if ever, before automated markets are so standard that all deals are done by

computer.

Investors still place a high premium on the psychological component of trading, whereby dealers gauge the market by watching the behaviour of other dealers—eye to eye contact.

But no one doubts the proliferation of automated trading systems allowing investors to trade globally, 24 hours a day.

Such systems have been around since 1981, when Reuters Holdings Plc introduced its monitor dealing system for trading foreign exchange, which previously had no formal market. It is about to launch an updated version and competing systems are being developed by Telerate Inc and Quotron Inc of the US.

But the London stock market's big bang of October 27, 1986, when it switched to a screen-based quotation system, may have marked the beginning of the end of the open outcry system with buyers and sellers shouting orders on a central floor.

The next day the exchange's floor was empty as brokers moved dealers in-

house, to follow the market from desktop computers.

Now, markets around the world, led by the financial futures exchanges, are using screen-based systems. Large equities and commodities exchanges are still insisting on open-outcry floors, but they are creeping to screen-based systems as well, primarily for after hours trading or handling small orders.

The Swiss options and financial futures exchange opened a fully automated exchange in 1989 and others will follow. West Germany's Deutsche Terminboerse will soon begin using the same software, developed by Arthur Anderson Management Consultants.

The London International Financial Futures Exchange (LIFFE) has started automated after-hours trading on a system that attempts to simulate the dynamics of a trading pit on screen.

The London International Petroleum Exchange and the futures and options exchange and have launched limited screen trading, and similar developments are underway at a variety of exchanges.

World Bank moving to restore loans to China

Beijing faces foreign currency crunch

BEIJING, Jan 8, (UPI): The World Bank is "gradually reversing" a suspension of loans to China imposed after last year's crackdown on the democracy movement, and the wider freeze in Western lending is easing, a senior official of China's Central Bank said today.

"We have been in continuing contact with the World Bank on resuming loans," Long Yun-chong, a top aide to Li Guixian, the governor of the People's Bank of China, told reporters.

Hong, the executive director of the Central Bank Governor's office, spoke at a news conference announcing an international conference on central banking to be held in Beijing Jan 15-17.

The World Bank suspended \$750 million in development loans to China after the Chinese army fired on demonstrators in Beijing last June and the government suppressed the pro-democracy protests that swept the country in the spring.

The United States, Japan and the European Economic Com-

munity also froze new lending, and commercial banks followed suit. But signs have emerged recently of a thaw, in part due to the recent US effort to improve relations with China.

"We are in the process of studying it" with the World Bank, Hong said. "Both sides are actively engaged in discussing a resumption, and the situation is gradually reversing."

Reports from Washington have indicated the World Bank could resume lending this month. The move is crucial to China, which is currently engaged in a severe economic austerity programme that has dried up credit, cut industrial production and hiked unemployment.

The country also faces a foreign currency crunch, with sagging export earnings and a peak period of repayment approaching on its more than \$40 billion foreign debt. The government last month devalued the Chinese currency in a bid to boost exports.

But Hong said China has begun to see an improvement in

raising overseas funds after months of sanctions imposed by Western nations.

"The sanctions did bring some problems in our access to international financing," Hong said. "But the situation is changing now."

Because of the World Bank's position as the largest international lender to the Third World, resuming loans would signal a green light to other government and commercial lenders, lending Japanese banks and the Manila-based Asian Development Bank.

Japan has already indicated it plans to lift a freeze on its most recent government yen-loan package, totalling \$5.6 billion.

The World Bank has provided \$8 billion in loans to China since 1981, most for development in areas such as agriculture, rural infrastructure and energy vital to the country's modernisation.

US assets may hinge on whether China responds to President Bush's recent initiative to improve ties.

US and Chinese officials are believed to be stalled in negotiations on a major Chinese concession, freeing the leading dissident, astrophysicist Fang Lizhi, from refuge in the US embassy in Beijing.

Fang and his wife have been in the embassy since the shooting erupted early last June. Releasing them from pending arrest warrants would be seen as a significant response to Bush's easing last month of economic sanctions against China.

The announcement of the international central banking conference also comes as China is struggling with the austerity programme, designed to ease the inflation and other economic problems resulting from its decade-old free-market reforms.

China has been attempting to refine its monetary system and strengthen a central bank that has been generally subservient to government and local interests.

Marketers to use ecology to lure '90s customers

NEW YORK, Jan 8, (Reuters): If low-calorie products were the fashion of the "Me generation" 1980s, "green" products will be market leaders in the environmentally-conscious 1990s.

Environmental concerns will strongly influence consumer behaviour in the United States in the new decade as consumers keep pace with their counterparts in Canada and Europe, said Michael Peters, a New York packaging and product-design consultant and head of the Peters Group.

Peters recently studied "green" consumers in Britain, West Germany and the Netherlands. He found that accidents at Union Carbide Corp's chemical plant in Bhopal, India, and at the Chernobyl nuclear plant in the Soviet Union had alarmed consumers but left them with few ideas about what they could do to reduce environmental risk.

Scientific reports on damage to the earth's protective ozone layer changed that. Ozone in the stratosphere absorbs much ultraviolet radiation from the sun, which can cause skin cancer and other damage to humans and plants.

On that issue the consumer could and did act, ceasing to buy certain aerosol products that damage the ozone layer. "Green consumerism was born," Peters said.

Manufacturers are falling into line, motivated by the desire to be "good corporate citizens," to regulate themselves before the government does, and, mainly, to increase their profits by making products people want to buy.

Melvin Druta, vice-president of packaging systems at Campbell Soup Co, said Campbell believes environmental concerns will join personal health as an issue that will be "very important" to consumers.

Campbell is cutting the solid waste inherent in much of its packaging, Druta said. A switch in materials for its "leanmeat" frozen dinner trays cut packaging waste by almost 30 per cent, he said. The company has lightened its tin by about 24 per cent. In juice tins, Campbell is shifting from steel to aluminium, a highly recyclable metal.

Campbell does not want its good deeds to go unnoticed. "We're moving to place a symbol on all our containers made from recyclable materials," Druta said. An advertising tie-in is possible, he said.

Iran ready to welcome 300,000 tourists annually

Moves to revive tourism

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Jan 8, (AP): Iran is ready to accommodate some 300,000 tourists and earn more than \$210 million annually under the first stage of a tourism plan, a government official said today.

Mahdi Hashemi, director of the tourism department of the Mostazafan Foundation, told a news conference in Tehran the number could be doubled at a later stage, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

The Mostazafan, or deprived, foundation is a government welfare agency which operates its own tourist agency and other businesses to generate income for distribution to the poor.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Hashemi as saying the first batch of foreign tourists will arrive from Italy early in spring.

Negotiations were under way for other arrivals from Muslim and Third World countries, Iran, monitored in Nicosia, he added.

A separate report by Tehran radio, also monitored in Nicosia, said plans for the exchange of tourists between Iran and the Soviet Union have been completed.

The radio quoted an unnamed Transportation Ministry official as saying tourists will be shuttled across the Caspian Sea.

Hashemi said the Azadi International Tourist Organisation, the tourism subsidiary of his foundation, operates 32 international standard hotels in Tehran and other cities.

After a decade of self-imposed isolation, Iran launched a drive recently to revive its once flourishing tourism industry to promote a better image and carry badly needed foreign currency.

Hashemi confirmed that the ultimate goal of attracting tourists was to increase revenue and achieve political and cultural objectives.

Mohammed Taha Abd Khodaei, the Deputy Islamic Guidance Minister in charge of tourism, also stated in a recent interview that "we want to attract tourists to Iran primarily to expose them to our Islamic culture and to refute the image created by Western news media that we are a nation of terrorists."

Moves to revive tourism followed the death of Iran's revolutionary patriarch, Ayatollah Khomeini, on June 3.

But even the first tentative steps to attract foreigners have been criticized by headline radicals as a threat to Islamic purity.

"Attracting tourists at the cost of losing the spiritual values of society will be a great disaster," Parliament member Mohammad Razavi declared in a recent speech.

He argued that planning should be so thorough that "ungodly, materialistic ideas will not replace our pure Islamic culture."

Khodaei saw no problem "provided visitors follow rules observed by our own people."

Iran, Turkey sign accord

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Jan 8, (AP): Iran and Turkey have signed protocols regulating transportation and communication links between the two countries, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported today.

The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, said the agreement was signed in Tehran yesterday by Iranian Minister of Roads and Transportation Mohammad Saeedi-Kiya and his Turkish counterpart, Cengiz Tuncer.

The agreement will govern land, sea and air transportation between the two countries, as well as postal and communication exchanges.

Under the protocol, Turkey will issue 9,000 transit passes to Iranian trucks en route to Europe, and Turkish ports on Black Sea will be used to tranship Iranian goods.

More transit passes will be issued for Iranian trucks if required, Iran said.

Tuncer arrived in Tehran Saturday for a two-day official visit, Iran said.

Economic activity in Europe may continue apace with EEC growth

THE main concern for policymakers during 1989 was on how to sufficiently moderate economic activity in order to suppress inflation and continue to achieve an improvement in the global economic imbalances—notably with respect to the twin US budget and trade deficits—without provoking a significant turnaround in growth. Arguably, this delicate balancing act was effectively realised. Industrial country growth achieved an estimated 3.5 per cent compared with 4.0 per cent in 1988 whilst inflation at 4.5 per cent edged only slightly ahead, according to Currency Monitor.

Success in 1989 in maintaining relatively strong levels of growth and yet avoiding inflation cannot be viewed with complacency. The need to further adjust monetary and fiscal policy to narrow the international economic imbalances remains paramount to achieve sustainable growth.

In this respect, reducing the US fiscal deficit will continue to be a key issue whilst the need to maintain export competitiveness to further erode the major trade differences between surplus and deficit countries will still require corresponding currency alignments.

Whilst we would still contend that a recession in the US is put at outside risk, activity will undoubtedly trail significantly behind that of Japan and continental Europe. The evident slowdown to growth will provide for a further modest relaxation in policy.

However, the Federal Reserve is expected to remain gradualist in its approach—a significant downward adjustment in US rates as we go through 1990 is not visualised.

Economic activity in Europe is expected to continue apace with EEC growth remaining around 3.0 per cent, led by a strong West German performance. Only in the UK does the authorities' tight monetary policy of high real interest rates aimed to curtail above the OECD inflation and correct a trade deficit in excess of 4 per cent, threaten to tip the economy into recession during 1990.

For Japan, high domestic consumption and investment in domestic oriented industry has provided the major stimulus for continued expansion.

The central authorities can be expected to maintain an emphasis on stable exchange rates. The need to ensure sufficient interest in US denominated assets to fund the twin deficits whilst at the same time recognising that the dollar's correction is essential to sustain the adjustment to greater economic equilibrium will provide policy changes to prevent the US currency from a sustained and decisive one-way move.

We consequently maintain that the financial authorities will wish to accommodate a gradual decline in the dollar on a year to year basis. In the near term however given the dollar's sizable fall some retraction into the earlier part of the year is anticipated. In Europe an EMS realignment is envi-

saged, with the German unit revalued against the weaker members to include the Italian lira, Danish krona and French franc. For as long as sterling remains outside the exchange rate mechanism it will continue to be vulnerable to the UK's adverse economic fundamentals.

Kuwaiti dinar

Movements of the KD cross rates over the period December 2-23 have mirrored international developments in foreign exchange trends with the increasingly buoyant Western European currencies prevailing over a falling dollar and weak yen.

The Deutsche mark's rally was reflected domestically in its 3.37 per cent appreciation against the KD unit. The mark rose from its 165.90 file minimum value at the beginning of the month to a high of 171.49 file at month-end, registering an average of 168.86 file/DM in its upswing.

This sizeable appreciation was accompanied by a considerable degree of instability as the mark recorded the highest coefficient of variation for the month.

The dollar was the most adversely impacted by the mark's rebound, losing 1.34 per cent of its value against the KD this month. Having opened at 296.63 file/£, it dropped to 292.65 file at month-end registering an average value of 295.15 file in the interim. It was the most stable currency of the month as it gyrated within the 292.70-296.68 file range.

The French franc was only slightly more stable than the DM in its climb from the 48.60 file low at the beginning of the month to a high of 50.17 file/FF at closing. This 3.23 per cent appreciation against the KD unit recorded an average of 49.92 file/FF.

The pound sterling scored the third strongest appreciation against the KD unit after the French franc and the DM, opening at the low level of 463.19 file, it closed at a high of 474.97 file at month-end with the period average settling at 469.07 file/sterling.

This 2.54 per cent strengthening against the KD was accompanied by a relatively moderate level of instability.

The Swiss franc averaged 187.69 file over the 3-week period moving within the wide range of 184.32-190.51 file. In closing at the 188.99 file level from an opening value of 185.28 file it recorded a 2 per cent appreciation against the KD unit.

Finally, the yen was the second most stable currency of the month as it depreciated against the KD by 0.15 per cent, opening at the month high of 206.78 file, it moved in a downward direction to 205.73 file at closing. The average level for the month was 205.15 file/yen.

US dollar

The dollar lost significant ground over the month. Factors which undermined sentiment were provided by weaker economic indicators fuelling increased speculation that the Federal Reserve would have little option but to ease policy. Against this, background activity in continental Europe

remains exceptionally robust with policy emphasis for the time being continuing on restraint.

The erosion in interest rate differentials and the perception of sustainable economic growth and strong corporate returns in Europe has attracted substantial capital inflows largely away from dollar assets.

The stalling in US trade performance did not help matters and the dollar ended the month 11 pence lower to KD1.73. Over the year as a whole with dollar support factors diminished the US dollar's earlier gains have now, as anticipated, been entirely eroded.

The relative improvements to the US economic imbalances clearly demonstrated during the earlier part of 1989, now require another push. The fiscal deficit relative to GNP successfully reduced from 3.5 per cent to a current 2 per cent, looks set for some expansion into 1990/91.

Without meaningful expenditure cuts and/or tax increases further progress to reduce the deficit appears limited. In that economic growth is forecast to slow, government tax revenues will be correspondingly weakened, whilst the ability to make substantive expenditure cuts is questionable.

Interest rates

Despite the more recent clear indications of slowdown, earlier robust activity should provide the US with an annual growth rate of 1989 in excess of 3 per cent.

Nevertheless, currently most indicators are testifying to a softer tone without recession. Recently monthly data provided by home sales, housing starts, industrial and manufacturing production, retail sales, construction spending and factory orders are all moderating on a year on year position.

Labour and capacity constraints have also correspondingly eased. Fourth quarter 1989 GNP is likely to be weak with first quarter this year little changed. For 1990 as a whole, we estimate that with a partial relaxation in policy and export performance benefitting from a weaker dollar, activity whilst inevitably slowing is expected to achieve 2 per cent.

Moderating economic growth and the expected easing in price pressures will allow some modest relaxation in policy. However, the Federal Reserve will continue to be cautious in its approach. The dollar's fall would have fuelled inflationary concerns whilst an over zealous relaxation in policy would only precipitate further dollar weakness.

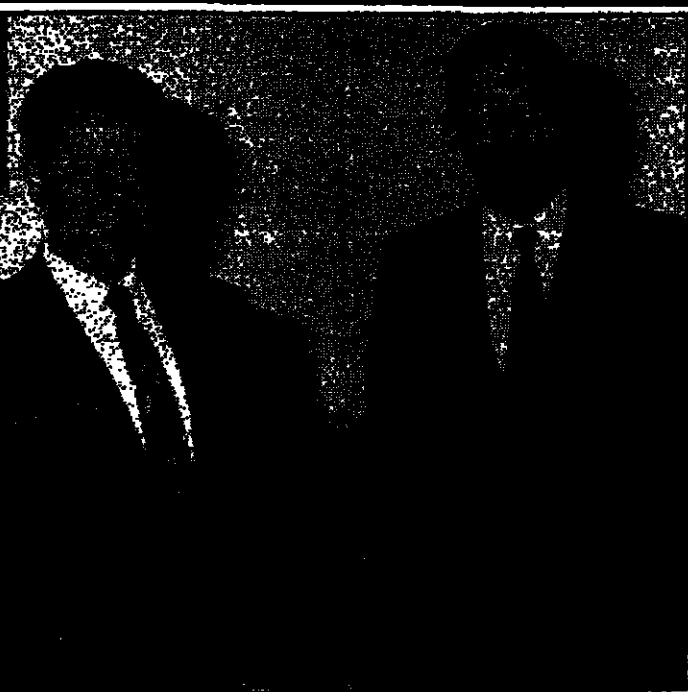
The Federal Funds rate is anticipated to ease by quarter percentage point moves. The next expected to prompt widespread points in bank prime rates, whilst a half percentage point discount rate decline remains anticipated for early 1990. However given the need to fund the country's external deficit and support the currency, a significant downward adjustment in US rates will go through 1990 is not visualised.

(To be continued)

Bombay shares

Bombay Stock Exchange prices (Rs) Jan 8							
	Pr. Close	Open	Close				
ACC	344	346	346	JK Syn	65	65	62.50
Alum Chem	—	—	—	Kim Eng	151	149	151.25
Alw Nw	—	—	—	Kir Cumm	74	75	74
Ari Fab	97	97	101	KSC Pumps	210	205	210.50
Ashtek Ley	245	245	250	L & T	79	80	79
Asia Print	47	47	47	Lipton	109	110	110
Atlas Cop	58.75	55	60	Mac Russel	280	175	180
Auto Corp	420.65	425	427	Mad Costs	110	110	112
Bajaj Auto	402.50	405	405	Maishind	100	99	98
Bar Kavya	782.50	800	780	Max Share	18.65	18.75	18.50
Blow Plast	—	—	—	Mobi	1088	1160	1100
Bom Dye	222.50	231	221	Milford	24	24	25
BK Bond	104.50	102	102	Mido	60	57.50	60
Burr Wd	97.50	92.50	97.50	MRF Ltd	300	—	—
Canshale	—	—	—	Muk Iron	153	153	153.50
Can Euka	3300	3275	3300	Nocli	1375	1400	1450
Can Sps	2710	2720	2710	Nippon	54	53	55
Colgate	190	192.50	191.25	Orkay	18	19	17.75
Cromat Gr	925	—	—	Oswal	52.50	51	54
DCM	15	15	15	Pelco	—	—	—
Durg Fert	33.50	33.50	33.50	Pfizer	107.50	111.25	108.75
Enlight	74	74	70	Ponds	225	225.50	225
ET Hotels	65	63	65	Prem Auto	69.50	70	69.50
Esports	86	87.50	87.50	Ranchley	105	100	107.50
ESSE Indes	774.58	778.35	778.35	Ray Wdcl	74	73	73
Estater	165	165	165	Reckitt	235	240	246.50
Esar Sps	34	35	34.50	Reliance	78.50	82.50	78.50
Food Sps	120	121.25	122.50	Sena Org	81	92	92
Forbes	52.50	51.25	53.75	Shaw Wall	—	—	—
GFC SPS	122.50	122	121.50	Shree Cam	—	—	—
GNPC	43	43	42.50	Shri Fib	67	66	68
Grasim	127	127.50	127	Sherma	100	106	111
GE SPS	127.50	125	125.50	Singh	1470	1480	1480
GSPC	178.75	181.25	180	Spic	61.50	62	61.75
Guj Alkl	* 81	80	82.50	St Mills	66	69.50	68
Guj Heavy	17	17	19	Tata Oil	129	130	129
Hero Honda	158	158	158	Tata Chem	545	537.50	529
Hind Cha	1525	1580	1650	Telco	128	130	130
Hind Lever	115	115	115.50	Thappu Auto	114.50	115	114.25
Hind Cocac	140	140	140	Vamori	150	150	150
Hind Motor	110	110	110	Vardil	23.75	21.25	21.25
Hind Plast	262.50	263.75	266.25	Voltas	730	750	730
Hindcoat	2200	2200	2200	Vulcan	31	31.50	30
Ingersoll	235	235	237.50	Zenith	61	60.50	60
ITC	60.50	61.50	61.50	Zusri Auto	64	63	65
Ind Rayon	101	103	99.50				
Indrol	210	210	213.75				

Compiled by Kuwait-India International Exchange Co.



Dinner buffet for minister

The Moroccan Ambassador to Kuwait, Abdul Wahed Bin Masood held a dinner banquet in honour of the Moroccan Public Works Minister, Mohammed Al Qabaji.

The dinner party was attended by a number of ambassadors in Kuwait and a number of businessmen and officials.

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV-1

MORNING PERIOD

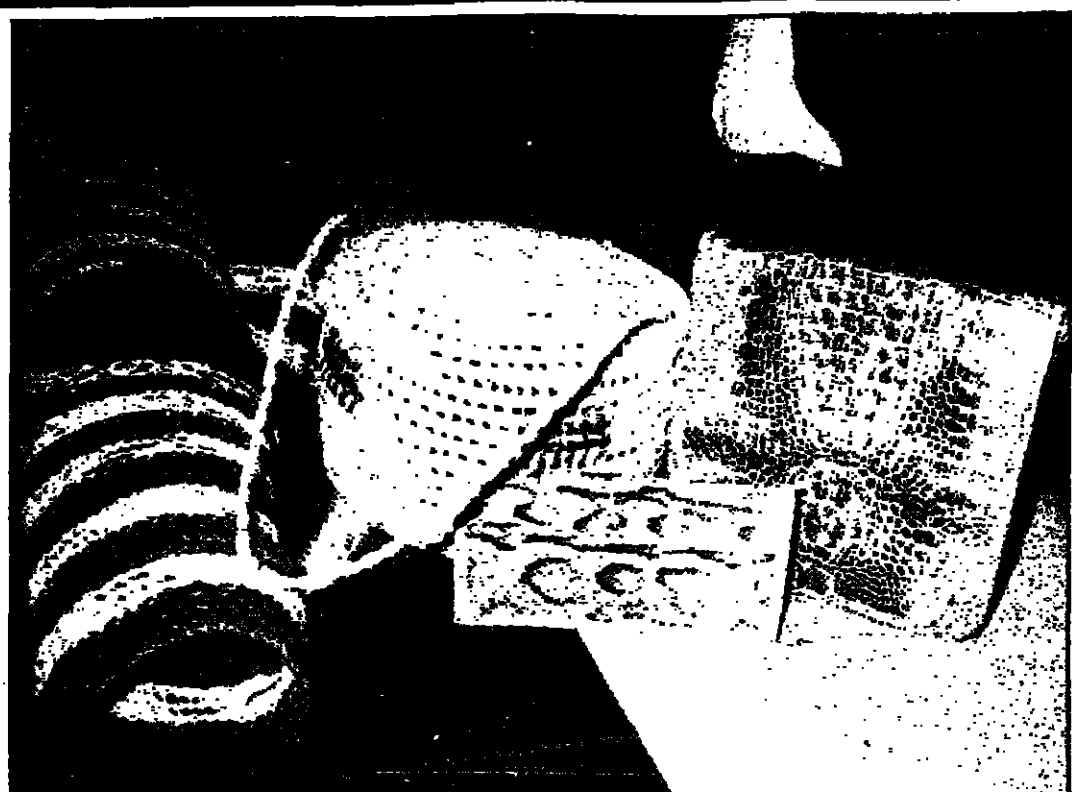
- 9.30 Opening and Holy Quran
- 9.40 Sabah Al Kher News
- 9.50 Cartoon serial
- 10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
- 10.30 Toyour Billa Ajneha: Arabic serial (part 6)
- 11.45 Challenges: Foreign cultural programme (part 2)
- 12.25 News summary
- 12.30 Sabah Al Kher news
- 12.35 Holy Quran and closedown

EVENING PERIOD

- 4.00 The opening and Holy Quran
- 4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
- 4.45 Breen: Cartoon serial
- 5.15 The World of Tomorrow: Cultural programme
- 5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
- 6.00 Imam Mohammed Abdoh: historical serial (part 10)
- 6.45 Varieties
- 7.00 Our children and the future: Cultural programme (part 2), prepared and presented by Dr Mohammed Redha
- 8.00 Made in Kuwait: local information programme, prepared and presented by Dr Ali Al Damkhi
- 8.30 Good Evening and local news
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.45 Ghadan Tushroq Al Shams: Arabic serial (part 8)
- 10.45 Al Barkan: Arabic weekly serial (part 1), starring Rashied Assaf, Fadya Khatat, and Waha Al Rahab
- 11.45 News Summary
- 11.50 The World Today via Satellite
- 12.15 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV-2

- 6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
- 6.10 Diplodoc. A cartoon series for children
- 6.30 Dartmoor Spring Pt 2 Beautiful nature attracts man towards wildlife where challenge plays a major role in shaping human life
- 7.00 Peaceable Kingdom "Snakebite". After Rebecca is bitten by an unidentified snake, Jed leads a team of zoo workers in a desperate search for the reptile so they can determine the antidote to save her life...
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.30 You and the Law
- 8.45 Coming of Age Hail to the Chief. A discussion between those who are in power and those powerless.
- 9.15 The Story of Hollywood "The B-Movie". How the crews who made the budget pictures created a collection of classics and gave birth to the independent spirit that ushered in the new age of blockbusters.
- 10.00 The Twilight Zone "The Call". A man dials a telephone number by chance where he receives a message from a woman on the other end. When he tries to identify her personality, he meets unexpected results.
- 10.30 A Man Called Hawk "Hear no Evil". A dumb black young man witnesses a murder and is chased by the two criminals along with a white friend who is about to become deaf and dumb as well...
- 11.30 News in Brief
- 11.45 Magazine D'Actualite



Sudanese celebrate 34th National Day

The Sudanese Community Council in Kuwait and the Woman Committee held a party on the occasion of Sudan's 34th National Day. The party was attended by the Sudanese Ambassador in Kuwait, Abdul al Sanada.

The party which was held at Qadisiya Sports Club included a number of games and other recreational programmes for children in addition to an art exhibition.

ARTS

Seminar
THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in the Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration may be made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah, Tel: 2430826, 2453259.

Photography and Oil painting classes
OIL painting classes beginning 15 January.
Photography classes beginning 16 and 17 January.
8 week course, once a week 4:30 to 7:30 pm. For further details please call Ann Eid Tel. 2426135 or Yasmeen 5326833.

Tribal Rugs & Oriental Prints
THE Sultan Gallery will be holding a Tribal Rugs and Oriental Prints exhibition starting Saturday Dec 23 until Jan 15. On Saturday, the Gallery will be open from 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. Else, it will be open from 9.30 am to 12.30 noon and 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. For more information contact: 2421951.

Hobby centre
A NEW 8 week course in Jewellery and Design making — For more details call: Telephone: 5618847 or 5317354.

SOCIAL

Ramada Al Salam
GRAND Indian Food Festival from January 21-26. Display stalls open to Indian companies and individuals. Contact Clifton or Siddiq on 4835344.

Konkani Drama
THE New Goans Overseas Association is pleased to announce Menino De Bandar's "Sonsarant Astana Dhar" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Funaites) on the 16th of February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, Felcy, Josephine, Betty Alvares, Tita, Junior Rod, Carlos, Rosario Dias, C. D'Silva, John de Parra and Menino de Bandar.

Ballet
"STEPS" Ballet School commences its new term. Jan 1990 registration is now open. Sat-Wed in the Kuwait English School, Salwa from 3-7 pm. Call 5386481 between 9-12 noon for more information. (For girls only 4-15 years).

British Council
THE Scarlet and the Black — 137 min. Saturday, 13 Jan and Sunday, 14 Jan at 6.30 pm. This is the remarkable story of an Irish priest, Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty who founded an organisation to help escaping Allied prisoners of war. Features a brilliant cast: Gregory Peck, Christopher Plummer and John Gielgud. Admission is free but please telephone to reserve seats: 2515512, 2533204, 2533227.

Study the Humanities and Social Sciences in Britain
For more information on degree-level studies of these subjects, please visit The British Council Education Office on Monday and Tuesday, 15 and 16 January, 9.00 am to 12.30 pm and 5.00 to 8.00 pm.

Kalpak's Drama Competition
KERALA Arts and Literature Promotion Association of Kuwait (Kalpak) is conducting a Malayalam One Act Play Competition at Indian Arts Circle on 9th February 1990.

Like a Hurricane
SEVENTH Sky's upcoming Rock concert at Al Andalus cinema, on 15th & 16th February, 1990. We are looking for voluntary helpers and also an additional male & female vocalist. Ring 5748476 or 2543219.

People's Trust Club
JAN 11: People's Trust Club welcomes you to A Day of Your Life at Ramada Al Salam (Marriott) Hotel, New Ballroom from 10.30 pm onwards. Nimble feet, hungry palate, perfect blend of music and style. A get-together with buffet. Stepping Stones and Top Ranks, are ready to provide music of 1990s. People's Trust apologises for the postponement of this show last month.

The Carnival Nite
"THE Entertainers" proudly announces for the first time in Kuwait "The Carnival Nite" which is scheduled to be held at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel's Le Mirage main ballroom on 22nd February 1990. Be sure to be there with all your glit and glamorous costumes to witness this traditional event. Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers will rhythm out their best musical performance for this occasion.

Annual one act Play Competition
INDIAN Arts Circle announces the 11 Annual One Act Play Competition to be held during Eid holidays in April, 1990. The competition is open to Plays in any Indian language including English. Awards shall include Best Play (1st, 2nd & 3rd), Best Director, Best Actor & Actress, Best Child Actor, Best Stage Setting and Best Acting Performance from each team. Registration form with rules & regulations are available from Indian Arts Circle office at Funaites. Last date of submitting registration form with required details is 28th February, 1990.

Please contact IAC office (Tel: 3904817) for further details. All Indian associations engaged in theatrical activities are requested to join.

Contact
THE next meeting of Contact, the ladies information group, will be held on January 13 at 10 am at the Messiah Beach Hotel. Their chef will be giving a demonstration. Newcomers welcome. For further information call 5388105 or 4874513.

Saaz Aur Aawaz
FEB 2: Saaz Aur Aawaz, one of the leading Indian musical groups of Kuwait present their fourth musical programme entitled Bhule Bisse Geet. The show includes Hindi film songs at the Indian Arts Circle, Funaites on February 2, 1990. Passes will be available shortly.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Hajer Pharmacy
Al Hilal Street
Al Mutawa Pharmacy
Al Hilal Street
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Jouda Pharmacy
Tunis St.
Salwa and Rumaithiya
Al Meedan Pharmacy
Baghdad Street
Fahad and Ahmad
Al Imaan Pharmacy
Makkah St.
Farwaniya
Al Mnawer Pharmacy
Al Souq Street
Jahra
Al Zahra Pharmacy
The New Market

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
White Ghost
Sahiyah
Licence to Kill
Al Haura
Les Fugitives
Drive-in
Arabic film
Al Firdos
Aakhri Muqabala
Fahad
Extreme Prejudice
Al Jahra
Salim Javed

Granada
Puthiya Karukkal
Salaabhat
Saloon
Jeeb
Arpan
Ahmadi Drive-in
Arabic film

PRAYERS

Fajr	5.19 am
Zohr	11.55
Asr	2.48 pm
Maghreb	5.06
Isha	6.28

SPORTS

Tivim Centre
"TIVIM Centre is pleased to announce their 3rd Annual 9-a-side Inter Village Football Tournament which will be held on the Sour grounds, Kuwait City, beginning March 27/28th 1990. For further information please contact organisers — 2441860 Casmiro."

Rothmans Gold Cup Finals
THE finals of the Rothmans' Gold Cup Football Tournament organised by Sakete United Sports Centre, the sports wing of the weekend club, will take place on the Sour Grounds on Friday, January 12 at 9.00 am. Between Incredible Sports Club and Goan Sporting. Aref Essa, manager of Rothmans, will give away the trophies. All are cordially invited.



Employee of the Year

Hotel Meridien Kuwait selected its Best Employee for the Year 1989. Rudolphe Frantz, President of Meridien Hotels Worldwide, presented the award to Cyril Vincent Muckclair of the Accounts Department for his outstanding job performance during the year.

Picture shows (L-R): Rudolphe Frantz (President of Meridien Hotels worldwide), Keaton Woods (General Manager of Hotel Meridien Kuwait), Hassan Bayerli (Personnel Manager), Khalid Zikry (Financial Controller) and Cyril Vincent Muckclair (Employee of the Year).



PPYA hold condolences

The Pakistan People's Youth Association, Kuwait, yesterday held a day of mourning on the lives lost in the tragic train and bridge disasters in Pakistan last week. Special prayers were offered to the victims and sympathies were expressed to the brave families. The association cancelled all celebrations regarding the birthday of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the late prime minister of Pakistan.

Sorry No Fries



Potato Pancake in the Coffee Shop (Kartoffel Puffer)

The Potato. Underrated. - Over-fried! At Sheraton we are granting the potato the glory it deserves with our choice and delicious pancakes, prepared with such mouth-watering fillings as apple puree, creamed herb cheese, sour cherries with cream or cucumber and sour cream.

Come to Sheraton and sample a spud sensation! Featured for one week only, January 7 - 13th.

شيراتون الكويت
Kuwait Sheraton Hotel
The hospitality people of **PTT**

Tel: 2422065 Ext. 348

BLONDIE By Dean Young & Stan Drake



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE By Burt Foster



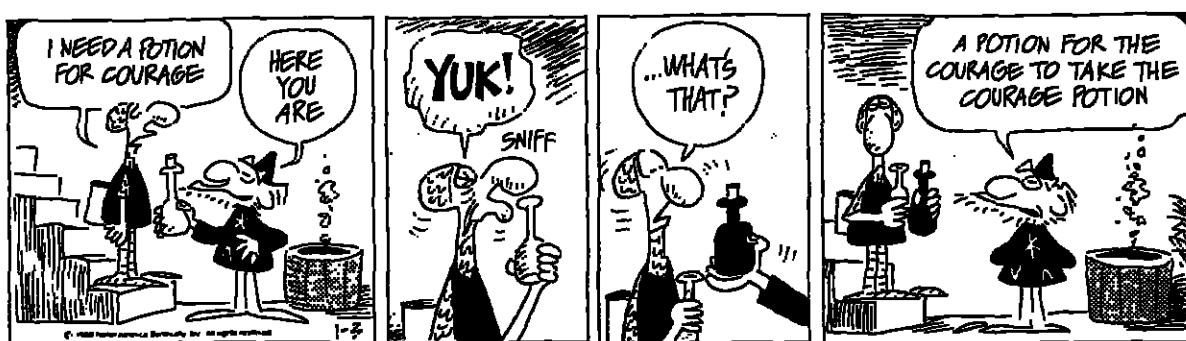
AGATHA CRUMM By Billings



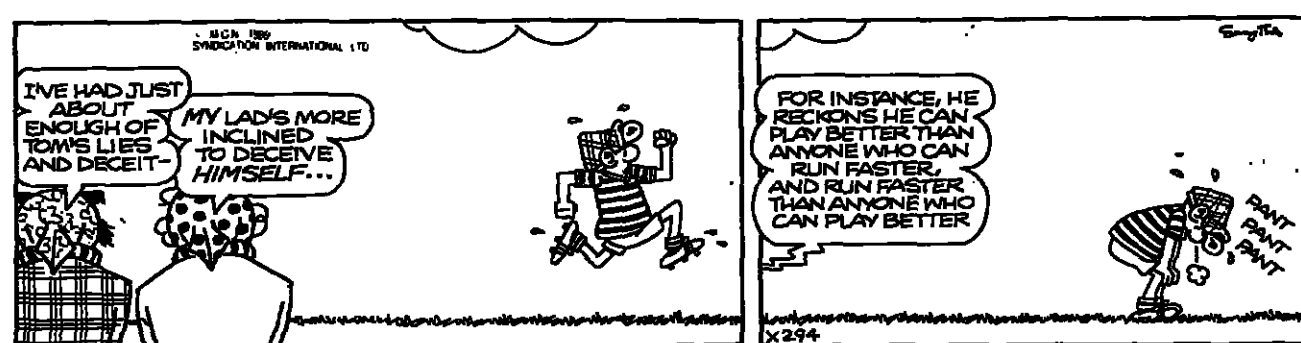
BEETLEBAILEY By Dan Aykroyd



THE WIZARD OF ID By Dan Aykroyd



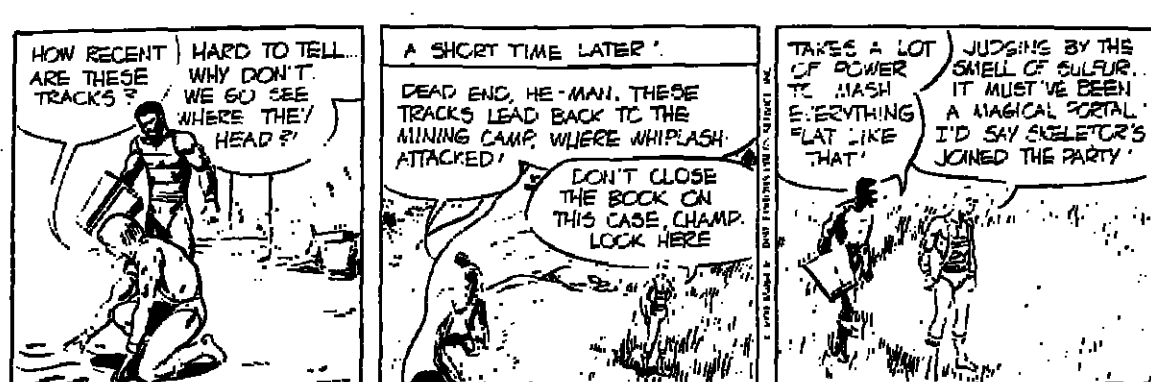
ANDY CAPP



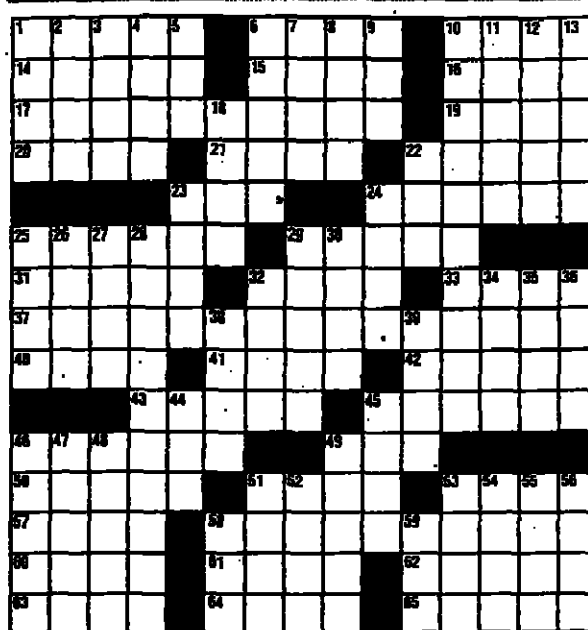
B.C. By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN By G. Rodon & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Divided country
 - Sound recording
 - Hermit's room
 - Starboard's opposite
 - Outside: Comb. form
 - Sorcery: Var.
 - Child's measure
 - Certain votes
 - Otherwise
 - Lady Chaplin
 - River to the Missouri
 - Decay
 - Small talk
 - Beantown
 - Bomber of WW II
 - Sub
 - Sharif
 - Cotton quantity
 - Twofold
 - Wall Street order
 - Boston cager, for short
 - Existing
 - alcohol
 - Midriffs
 - Rain cover
 - Barrie's Peter
 - Pierre's school
 - Headliner
 - Emity of etiquette
 - River of Florence
 - King Arthur's knights
 - Manorial court
 - Charlie's relative
 - Painter of the Ashcan School
 - John
 - Cummersbund's relative
 - Refrain syllables
- DOWN**
- "— and Allie"
 - Australian export
 - Reiner and Lowe
 - First name in mystery
 - Feasted
 - Station
 - Religious object
 - Portico
 - Swindle
 - English landscapist's works
 - Naval vessel, for short
 - City of E
 - Belgium
 - Powerful beam
 - Presently
 - Mighty tree
 - Near Eastern weight
 - Contented sound
 - Future flowers
 - Wind instrument
 - Inner nature
 - Linen sale purchase
 - Pette
 - Dessert choice
 - Toe the line
 - Landed
 - Home from Brooklyn
 - Rim
 - Repeat
 - Black, to a poet
 - Common title
 - Joker
 - Bell tower sounds
 - Tubular sheath on a stem
 - Nine days before the Ides
 - Oxford bags
 - Like lemon drops
 - Salad ingredient
 - Wan
 - Greek coin
 - Blind part
 - "Perfect" numbers
 - Scoundrel
 - Cookbook abbr.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

POLO ISAR MARAT
AMOR DELE AMATI
NANA ORIAN TIROL
TREND ATIO INANE
GRAPEVINE
IMPEACH AINE NEH
KARATE ETCETERA
ENID ROE AWOL
DECEIVES SANESE
ASK MAD EMIGRES
DISFIGURE
BEGOT ALE ERATO
RIATA CORE IRED
ARMET EVIL NINE
GEESIE DEAL EATS

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
THE TRUMP TRICK THAT VANISHED

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ Q 9 6 4
♥ 5
♦ K 10 9 3
♣ A 8 7 2

WEST
♠ K 10 5 3
♥ K 3
♦ Q 8 7 6
♣ J 5 4

EAST
♠ J 8 2
♥ J 8 7 4 2
♦ A 5 2
♣ Q 9

SOUTH
♠ A 7
♥ A Q 10 9 6
♦ J 4
♣ K 10 6 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♥ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♦

Looking at all four hands, it seems that the defenders must score a club trick. But the old devil was up to another of his tricks during the recent Fall North American Championships and a seemingly certain trick went up in smoke.

A routine auction led to South declaring three clubs. Were it not for the trump suit, the hand would not have attracted any attention.

West led a diamond to East's ace as South unblocked the jack. Declarer, Haig Tchaimitch of Thornhill, Ontario, played low on the spade shift; West's king won and a spade came back. Declarer won the

ace, finessed the nine of diamonds successfully and discarded two hearts on the queen of spades and king of diamonds. A diamond was ruffed in the closed hand as East discarded a heart.

After cashing the ace of hearts, declarer ruffed a heart in dummy, felling the king. This was the position:

NORTH
♠ 9
♥ —
♦ —
♣ A 8 7

EAST
♠ J 8
♥ —
♦ —
♣ Q 9

SOUTH
♠ Q
♥ —
♦ —
♣ K 10 6

When declarer led a spade from the table, the defenders trump trick evaporated. In practice, East ruffed with the queen. Declarer overruffed, then ran the ten, pinning the nine. A finesse of the eight brought in the trumps without loss, and declarer collected a surprising 11 tricks.

Had East discarded, declarer would have ruffed low and led his heart. Whether West ruffs high or low, the trumps can be picked up without loss. Try it.



YOUR STARS



Do not get annoyed with yourself if things keep going wrong. Instead do your best to find the cause and remedy it. Do not rely too much on luck, though you will have some. Be reliable.



You will be able to do something you have long wanted to do. However not everything will be quite as you would wish it to be. Make sure your diet contains enough vitamins and not too much fat and starch. Be tolerant.



Something you had been hoping would happen will not. Nor will something that you had rather feared might happen. You will have to make an extra effort to keep a promise you have made. Be moderate.



Something you have been doing wrong will have bad results, but there is still time to correct the worst effects. You are rather more liable to mislay things so be extra careful. Do not believe all you hear. Be realistic.



Every thing seems to be taking longer so make due allowances. If you try to do more than one thing at a time you will end up doing all of them by half. Not a good day for taking a drastic decision. Be truthful.



You will be able to make better progress by persuasion than you could ever do by force. Avoid taking anything for granted just now. Exercise a little more commonsense where spending is concerned. Be sensible.



A personal project will make good progress. However you must not fall behind on your commitments either. And do curb a desire to spend beyond your means. Be sincere.



Do not expect others to do all you would wish them to do. You are reluctant to do something that ought to be done. Make sure your partner is left in no doubt about your love and affection. Be magnanimous.



You should not keep changing your mind. Your intuition is likely to lead you astray so better follow the dictates of reason. Do all you can to avoid getting into an argument. Be generous.



Do all you can to avoid causing pollution. You have no time to waste so do not dither or daydream. Nor should you rely on gutswork. Be less extravagant.



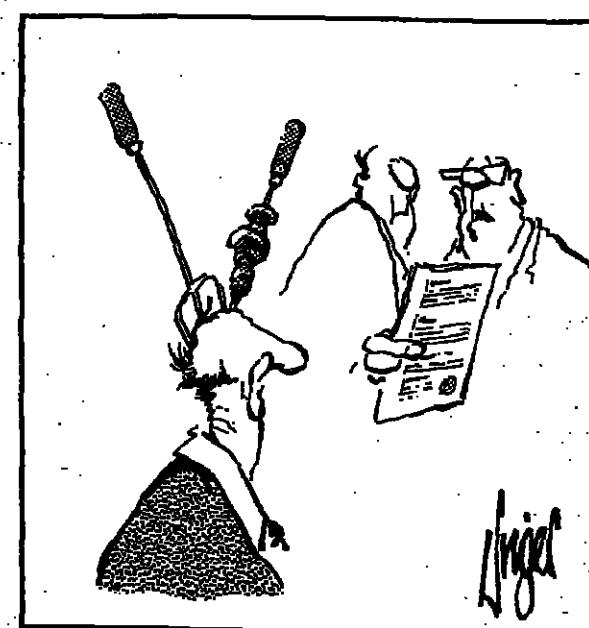
You should not change your mind once you have decided on what to do. However if it turns out that you are heading the wrong way, then do change direction. Your lucky numbers are 14 and 38. Stand by your principles. Be cordial.



You will feel a little less inclined to do things and you will have to pull yourself together. You are more liable to make mistakes so do check your results more carefully too. You should not think it is too late to learn, if you do you really are getting old! Be less resentful.



"This is a video of you two watching the video of our vacation."



"Personally, I think it helps the divorce if we leave both of them in there."

مكتبة الأمل

The romance of Taj Mahal

Billboard's top 10 rentals

1. **Batman** — Warner Home Video
2. **Ghostbusters II** — RCA-Columbia Pictures Home Video
3. **Scrooged** — Paramount Home Video
4. **K-9** — MCA Home Video
5. **Three Fugitives** — Touchstone Home Video
6. **See No Evil, Hear No Evil** — RCA-Columbia Pictures Home Video
7. **Road House** — MGM-UA Home Video
8. **Say Anything** — CBS-Fox Video
9. **When Harry Met Sally....** Nelson Home Entertainment
10. **Working Girl** — CBS-Fox Video.

Happy birthday



Sana Manzoor turns 5 on January 19



Noman Manzoor turned 4 recently



Reema Varghese turned 7 on January 8



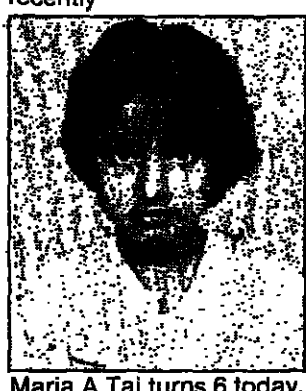
Saqib Butt turned 8 on January 4



Anju Nair turned 5 on January 7



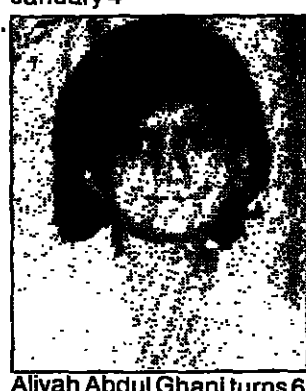
Hakimuddin A Taj turns 6 today, January 9.



Maria A Taj turns 6 today, January 9.



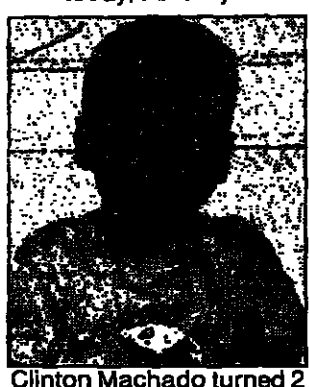
Royston Savio Vaz turned 6 on January 8.



Aliyah Abdul Ghani turns 6 on January 10



Roshan D'Souza turns 8 today, January 9.



Clinton Machado turned 2 on December 29



Sadaf Habib turns 1 on January 10



Roshith turns 6 today, January 9



Siddeshwar R. Verlekar turned 2 on January 5



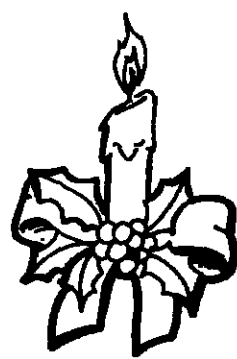
C. Srikanth turned 11 on January 7



Sana Siddiqui turned 8 on January 4



Malik Rehman turned 12 on January 4



Gaurav Handa turned 8 on January 6



Bilal Khaled turned 6 on January 7

Shereen's thought for the day...

The heart of the fool is in his mouth, but the mouth of the wise man is in his heart....



Old MacDonald's farm

Save cardboard tubes and add strips of card to make the animals that lived on Old MacDonald's farm.



Basic Shape:

Draw round the circle end of the tube and cut out two circles of thin card. Stick onto each end of your tube.

Cut two strips of card long enough to stick round the tube and make four short legs.

Stick on paper ears and draw a face. Paint your pig pink. Add a curly paper tail.

Variety

Scientists try to find cause

Puzzling circles

ALRESFORD, England. (Reuters): Farmers in Britain may be surprised to find scientists wandering around their fields this winter looking for circles in the snow.

Mysterious circles up to 30 metres (yards) across have been appearing in increasing numbers in cornfields in southern England for several summers — and some researchers are continuing their quest for the causes into the winter.

The government takes the view that the circles are a natural phenomenon and the editor of a meteorological journal says they are caused by vortices. But two engineers studying them have ruled out whirlwinds, UFOs, boogies on motorbikes, fighting deer or helicopters as possible causes.

They say they are convinced the circles of corn, flattened and swirled into precise, symmetrical patterns are neither man-made nor within the realm of conventional science.

"There is something there that we cannot account for," says Colin Andrews, an electrical engineer. "And it's gathering momentum," says Pat Delgado, a retired electro-mechanical engineer.

Next year the two, who have written a book on the subject, expect to find crop circles in greater numbers and probably larger and more intricate ones.

Some 270 circles appeared during the summer of 1989, 50 of them in new sites. The 98 circles reported in 1988 and some 50 in 1987 were confined to a narrow band across the southern counties of Hampshire and Wiltshire, Andrews and Delgado say.

But in 1989 they spread to seven other counties and in many cases people whose families had farmed the land for generations said they had never seen them before.

The government is aware that circles have been appearing, a spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture said. But he said it takes the view that "this is much more likely to result from a combination of wind and local soil fertility conditions."

Physicist and meteorologist Terence Meaden, editor of the Journal of Meteorology and head of its subsidiary Ceres, the Circles Effect Research Unit, says circles are caused by vortices.

"Hills interrupt wind flow... there's turbulence on the downward side and a vortex forms in that turbulence," he says.

Crops are flattened by the death throes of a whirling mass of wind, says Meaden. He says electric charges set up by the main vortex are powerful enough to induce more charges which form rings around the circles. They can also charge the surrounding air to form glowing balls of light.

Asked why vortices and circles are not more widespread, he says: "The rolling downs of Hampshire and Wiltshire are just big enough." The Welsh mountains, for example, would be too big, he says.

Andrews and Delgado have been collecting data in Britain and abroad for over five years and have amassed photographs and measurements, interviewed farmers and eyewitnesses and sent numerous plant and soil samples for analysis.

They now believe the circles are created by some sort of energy force but are at a loss to pin it down.

"It is something completely unexplored and unexplained," Delgado says.

The aspect that makes them uneasy is a growing conviction that this energy is being "intelligently manipulated."

The circles are not random, they say, and a phenomenon is constantly developing with the patterns appearing.

The crop is undamaged and forms perfect symmetrical patterns flattened radially out from the centre, spiralled clockwise or anti-clockwise, sometimes twisted and even braided into several layers. In several cases where corn has started to grow back it has formed seven concentric circles with 48 spokes.

The circle ends abruptly but often there are one or more concentric rings around it and sometimes two to four satellite circles around those, they say.

The measurements are precise. Satellites are typically three to four metres (yards) in diameter and spaced at exactly the same distance from the main circle.

Marine geologist Robin Wingfield has also taken an interest in the circles.

"As a scientist... I think they are well worth investigating. It's extremely difficult to see how they could be hoaxed."

"I'm extremely reluctant to say this... but they appear to be caused by some form of intelligence," Wingfield says.

He cites as evidence the circles' near perfect symmetry and limited numbers. Plotted on a graph the incidence of circles seems to be growing by squared numbers, which is very hard to explain in terms of natural phenomena, he says.

Circles are usually formed at night and in a handful of cases people have reported seeing unidentified flying objects, or at least spherical amber lights in the sky.

But Delgado insists: UFOs are not connected with this phenomenon in any way.

Delgado, who says he can sense energy in the way a water diver detects underground springs, says there are hundreds of thousands of energy lines covering the earth like a giant football net.

Andrews and Delgado now think the circles are linked to these energy lines.

They say that several times they have seen flashes or heard thunder-like bangs while measuring circles and a television crew recorded loud crackling while filming one.

Animals seem to be more sensitive to abnormal energy levels than people. Andrews and Delgado say they have twice taken dogs with them when they have gone to measure circles: one refused to enter the circle and the other was violently sick and had to be taken out.

Andrews and Delgado say they have heard of a number of circles in other countries.

In Britain, they say, whatever it is that is flattening ripening crops may be active all year round and be more widespread, but passing unnoticed. "It just needs something to register in," Delgado says.

"We'll be looking very closely at the snow cover this year," Andrews adds.

Archaeologists have found the Globe

Location of Shakespeare's famous theatre pinpointed

LONDON (CSM): "Have you heard the news?" someone called out to Sam Wanamaker recently as he stepped inside the Globe Museum in the Southwark area here, a stone's throw from where tradition says Shakespeare's famous Globe Theatre stood some four centuries ago.

"What news?" Wanamaker inquired casually.

"They've found the Globe!" came the ecstatic reply.

Wanamaker recalls his immediate reaction as a heady mixture of excitement and "a wonderful sigh of relief." For over a third of his life, the 70-year-old American actor, now a resident of London, has been leading a sometimes painfully lonely crusade to rebuild Shakespeare's Globe Theatre on the banks of the River Thames. Until now, no one had ever been able to pinpoint the Globe's location.

"But at long last archaeologists have found it," says Wanamaker. "And it's so important for all of us to have this kind of assurance that the Globe was really here."

The significance of the discovery cannot be overstated. Dr Geoffrey Wainwright, chief archaeologist of English Heritage, an organization dedicated to preserving historical buildings and artifacts, says he is "absolutely delirious" at the news.

"The discovery validates that this is where the most important theatre in the world, which witnessed the most important period of drama in the world, really was located," exudes Wanamaker. "Now we know unequivocally that it wasn't just a lot of scholars saying, 'We think the Globe was here.'"

Not that the real value of the place was always recognized. In 1949 in a sorely neglected part of London, Wanamaker stumbled upon an obscure plaque on a brewery wall marking the spot where the Bard's playhouse was believed to have stood. He was stunned that such an important historical site was all but forgotten and became fired up by the notion of rebuilding the Globe.

After battling local British bureaucracy head on for a number of years without much success, the actor established the International Shakespeare Globe Trust, a charitable organization based in the Globe Museum, which he founded at the same time, and assiduously enlisted the support of many dignitaries. It wasn't until last year that the first spade of dirt was turned by the eminent British actress, Dame Judi Dench, to begin the foundations of the new Globe.

"The timing in finding the Globe has been absolutely miraculous," says Wanamaker, chuckling. "Had we not had the many, many struggles and problems and barriers to get to where we are today, we might have had our replica built before this discovery, and then found some of the elements of it to be wrong."

Indeed, while the groundwork is already in progress for the International Shakespeare Globe Centre — a multipurpose building complex to complement the theatre replica — the preparations for erecting the Globe itself were not scheduled to begin for several months yet. Now, says Wanamaker, construction will be postponed, pending excavation of the real thing, "so that we can get it absolutely right."

But excavation is easier said than done. For starters, the nearby Southwark Bridge stands on what may well be as much as 30 per cent of the original theatre. No one is suggesting that the bridge should be demolished in order to find out. What lies below the bridge, say the experts, was undoubtedly destroyed during the course of its construction.

But as archaeologist John Dillon, the project's manager, explained to me, this may not be disastrous. If the Globe was 80 feet in diameter instead of 120 feet (scholars have never been certain which size is correct) then the actual stage itself would be outside the bridge area.

Some 60 per cent of the Globe, which may include all of the stage, is situated directly under a government-protected building known as Anchor Terrace, whose facade dates back to Georgian times. While the interior was gutted long ago to make way for modern offices, the outside is considered of architectural interest, particularly by Britain's Georgian Society and English Heritage, both of which



Wanamaker with model of Globe Theatre.

want to protect such buildings from destruction.

The Museum of London, which is in charge of the excavation, is supportive of their concerns. "Obviously the Globe must be more important than the Georgian facade," observes Harvey Sheldon, one of the museum's leading archaeologists, who heads the project. "But, nevertheless, there is an important principle at stake." Indeed, knocking down one historical structure in order to get at another is considered by many British scholars to be vandalism of the worst sort. Should the Globe be dug up at all?

For the archaeologists involved, this question is a particularly tough one. There are

many other very important historical sites around Britain that are under threat of destruction due to impending commercial development; the Globe site is not. If the Globe is excavated now, the knowledge to be gleaned from those other sites could well be lost. "The difficulty is that there's a severe shortage of trained archaeologists in this country," concludes archaeologist Dillon.

There are plans to display the site on the ground floor of the building that will be built here by Hanson, P.L.C., an international management firm that owns the land. From the start, the company has co-operated closely with the archaeologists

from the Museum of London.

But it is not yet known if the fragile artifacts will survive. The primary difficulty lies in the fact that the entire riverside area is exceptionally marshy. When the land dries out through exposure, the artifacts are expected to shrink. Pessimists predict that what's left of the Globe could very well crumble to a pile of dust.

"There should be a period of debate before we rush into anything," comments Sheldon. "That's the next stage. We need to work out whether it's best to investigate the site, to get whatever academic and popular knowledge we can from it... or whether it's best that the Globe should be safely buried and left undisturbed."

Such views are guaranteed to cause alarm in many quarters. Meanwhile, a small portion of the building's curve — almost certainly part of the outer edge of Shakespeare's famous "Wooden O" — plus some brickwork that may indicate an outside stairwell — are all that have been uncovered. What to many is a precious patch of mud awaits a hotly contested fate.

Much depends on progress at the site of the nearby Rose Theatre, an Elizabethan contemporary of the Globe discovered last summer. Tubes have been inserted under its protective sand-and-concrete canopy to assist in monitoring the chemical environment for any detrimental changes. "Nobody, as far as we know, has had any experience in preserving and displaying waterlogged sites," explains Kate Foley, English Heritage's head of the conservation section at its Ancient Monuments Laboratory. "And we've sought expertise worldwide. So we just don't have any idea what's going to happen. But, for the time being, the Rose seems to be doing very well."

None of those interviewed would take a firm stand on what should be the future of the latest, and most thrilling, archaeological discovery in the history of English-speaking theatre.

Except Wanamaker. He has no doubts. "What would the world say," he demands, "if the Globe, now that it has at last been found, is not excavated?"

كلمات الأمل

Dear Junior Readers,
I hope you had wonderful Christmas holidays and are ready to get down to serious work.

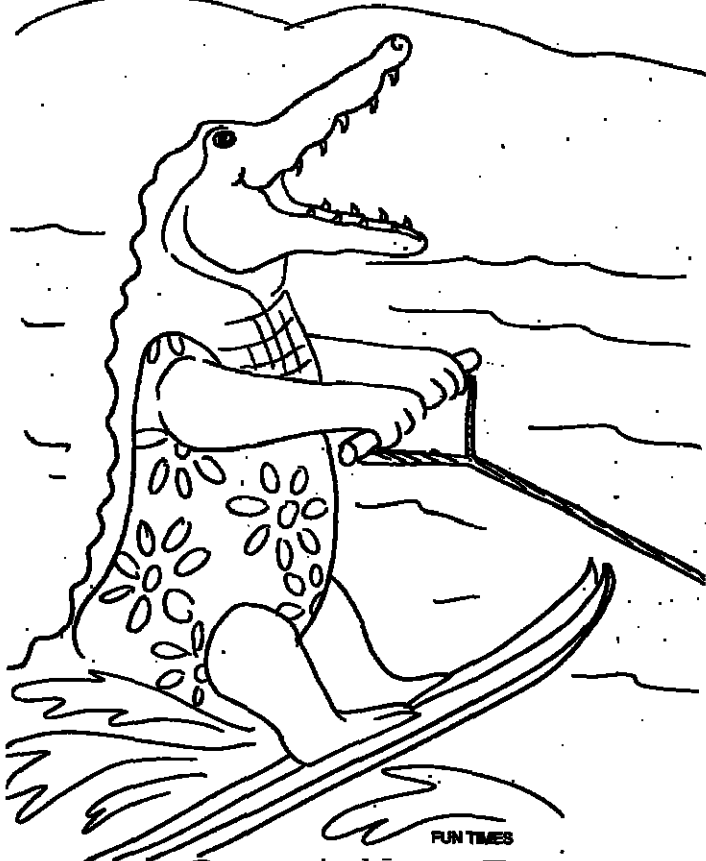
The second term of school is often more difficult than the first. Topics you learn will be more complicated and homework and exams more tricky. Also, your end of year exams will carry much more material than your midterms, meaning double effort.

This is why it is very important that you study all of your lessons day by day. Do not leave social science for tomorrow because it is a little boring and do not neglect your spellings because you just learned them yesterday and are sure to still remember them.

If you work relatively hard all term long, you'll find studying for your exams easy.

Manal

Colour Timing



Amazing facts

About people

WHEN a mysterious man called George Rex arrived in the Cape of Good Hope in 1795, he was treated with great respect. His name led people to believe that he was King George III of England.

Albert Einstein's last words were spoken in German. Nobody will ever know what they were, because his nurse spoke no German.

In 1937 the Maharajah of the Indian state of Bikaner was weighed on a scale against blocks of gold. The gold was then distributed to charities.

The figure of Britannia, which has appeared on British coins since 1665, is a portrait of a real person: Frances Stewart, later Duchess of Richmond. The original engraving was made by Philip Roetier.

'Spring-heeled Jack' was a man who adopted bizarre disguises and terrorized the suburbs of London in 1837 and 1838. He made huge leaps in the air, and was seen as a 'large white bull', a 'white bear' and 'clad in brass armour, with large, claw-like gloves'. He was never caught.

A lady from Yorkshire, England, gained her driving licence in 1970 after a record 39 attempts!

Just before he was hanged for robbery and murder, the Australian outlaw Ned Kelly's last words were: 'Such is life'.

Hiroo Onoda, Japanese soldier sent to a Philippine island during the Second World War, was unaware that the war had ended until a tourist told him in 1974.

Cleopatra, queen of Egypt in ancient times, was not an Egyptian at all, but of pure Greek descent.



For You and Me

God made the trees,
The whispering leaves,
The birds, and the bees,
And every breeze.

God made the mountains
The deep blue sea,
Built beautiful fountains,
For you and me.

God made the fishes
In the deep blue sea.
He made things plentiful
For you and me.

God made the world,
So we could see,
As his arms unfurled
For you and me.

By Melanie Britto,
(Carmel School).

Word search

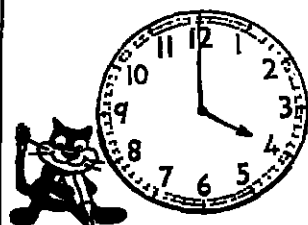
KICK-OFF TIME

BACK	DEFENSE	KICK	PUNT	SCRIMMAGE
BALL	DOWN	LATERAL	QUARTER	SWEEP
BLITZ	END ZONE	LINE	RED DOG	TACKLE
BLOCK	FIELD	OFFENSE	REFEREE	TEE
CATCH	GAME	PADS	ROOKIE	TOUCHDOWN
CENTER	GOAL	PASS	RUN	YARDS
CHAINS	GUARD	PENALTY	SACK	
CLEAT	HALF	PLAY	SAFETY	
CLOCK	HELMET	POINTS	SCORE	

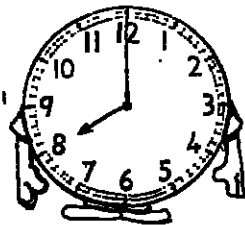


Tell the time

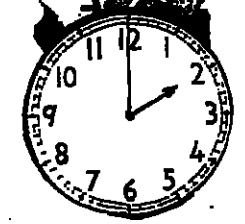
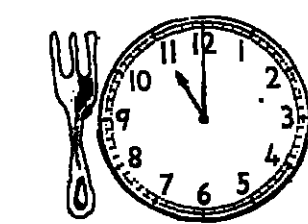
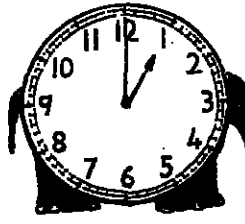
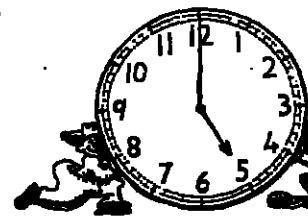
Write the time



..... o'clock



..... o'clock



Our school excursion

It was on the 30th of December i.e. last Saturday when my classmates (of the 8th grade) and I, still in a celebrating mood after Christmas, gathered in the morning assembly, excited about our once-in-a-year picnic. At 7.27am the buses left for Fahaheel Garden and it wasn't until 8.05 am that we actually reached there. The unpredictable weather of this season out here turned out lovely. The cool wind blowing. The sun shining and a party going on. What else can an ideal teenager want?

The party started with choosing a spot to settle our knapsacks which were still on our backs. At last Mr Grover (our physical training coach) sat down on a warm sunny spot. Then and there, the bed sheets were spread and relieving the weight from our backs we headed for the swings. The class of 29 students had to take turns on different rides due to the small number of play items. Some girls who divided themselves into groups went walk-a-cha. However, by 9:15 (our scheduled time) we raced back to our camping spot where we had our breakfast. Doesn't time fly! Just then it was 8.05 and now 9.19.

We could see the other classes camped not far away but not well organised either. Unlike

them we played full class games. The breakfast ended with the beginning of such games. At first we played "Housie". It sure was a tough match. Just two more and I would have won the second full house. But alas! all can't win.

After "Housie" we split again and when we were to start another game, three of us had to go down to the south pole to find a dozen girls. "Passing the parcel" was a "two in one" game. Mr Grover at the stereo made his favourite students go out first. At last we accused him of cheating. The one who got out had to pick up a chit which contained her fate. Jeanny the once victim had to act like a teacher. It was a splendid show.

Towards the end of the day i.e. 12.00 sharp, "Sheeba" was crowned queen (lucky draw winner). After that it was time to go back to school. This was the worst part of everything. However, we came singing all the way back and as we came near the school building we began to smell studies, tests, exams, home works etc. The smell was not very sweet and not very pleasant to think about. But may be next year again, that's something nice to think about.

Amina Reza,
13 1/2 years.

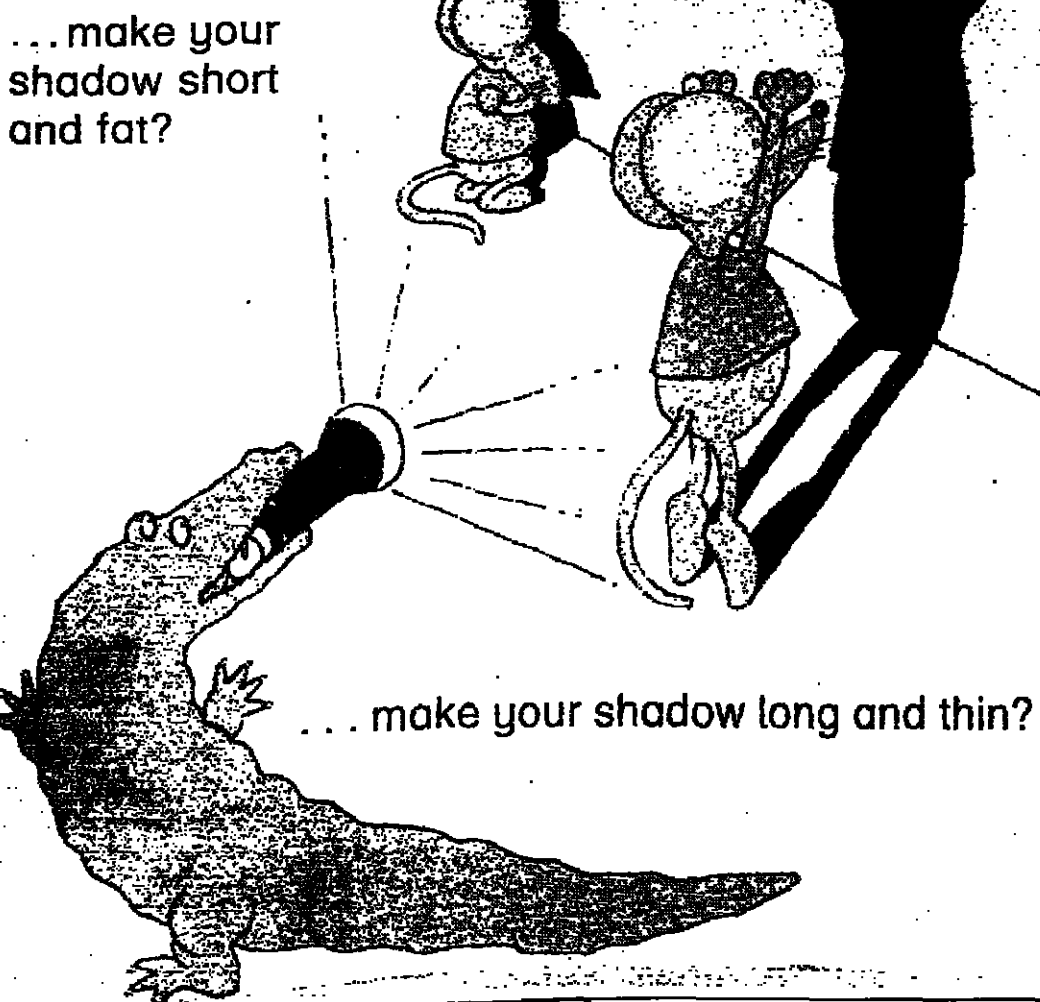
Join the science gang

My shadow

Make shadows with your body. You can do it outside on a sunny day or inside with a lamp or a torch.

Can you...

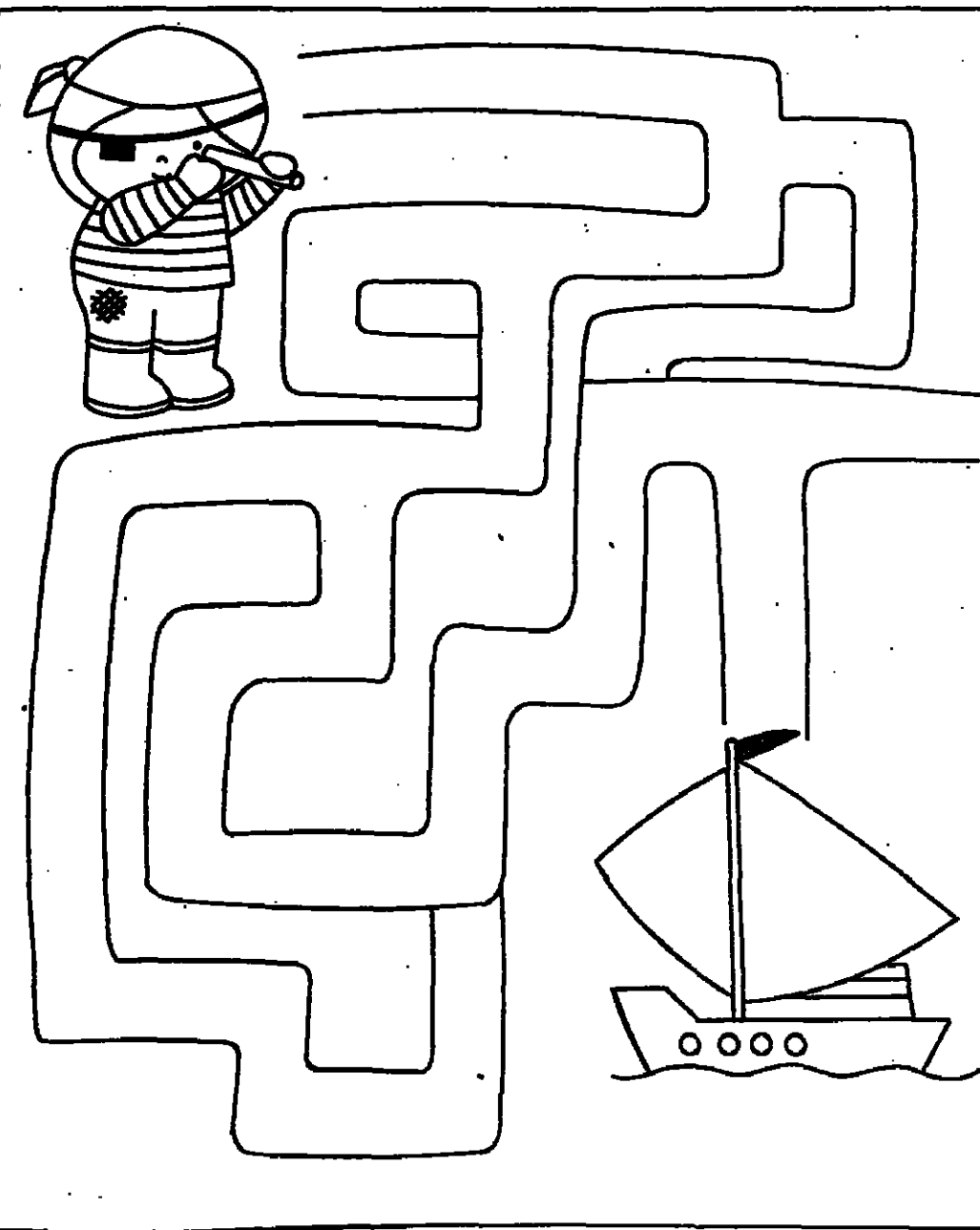
...make your shadow short and fat?



...make your shadow long and thin?

The pirate

Help the pirate get back to his boat.



First and last

When the phrase 'Mad as a hatter' was first coined it meant 'as poisonous as a viper'. The most poisonous snake in England was an adder or as we say now an adder. The phrase became most widely known through Lewis Carroll's book 'Alice in Wonderland'.

In 1958 a nuclear-powered submarine sailed underneath the North Pole for the first time.

Alan Shepard, the first American in space, set another record when he became the first man to hit a golf ball on the moon!

The first steam voyage to India was made in 1825.

Birthday coupon

Is your birthday to come soon?
Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times?
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1) New flat, Farwaniya Gazali Street with 3 bed rooms and sitting room, rent KD 210/- per month.
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Mouse Integrates Numeric Keypad, Programmable Keys
NEW
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You define the attributes of the KD65/PowerMouse 100's keys within a key-definition table—you can have an unlimited number of definition tables. The PowerMouse 100 comes with preprogrammed functions for Lotus 1-2-3 and other spreadsheet packages. Predefined functions include programming statements, TSR hotkeys, and macros (such as copying, erasing, and range formatting).
The mouse works with applications that do not have existing mouse support as well as those that support two-button mice, according to the company. It comes with drivers and software to configure it for use with software such as word processors, databases, and desktop publishing programs. Featuring BIOS-compatible Microsoft Mouse emulation, the PowerMouse uses opto-mechanical technology and interfaces with your RS-232 port (the package includes a 9- to 25-pin adapter) at a user-selectable speed of between 1,200 and 38,400 bits per second.
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Rent: KD 2,700 monthly.
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B.Com. degree certificate 20931 (Calicut), pre degree certificate 55,900 (Calicut) and SSL certificate 182623 of March '82 (Kerala) in a brown envelope, belonging to Reji Isaac. Finder please tele. 4837304/5.
(AT3-50927-3)

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SALMIYA, near The Sultan Center. Accommodation in a 2 bedroom flat for 2 bachelors, family or 2 working girls, to share with a Goan family. Tele. Lawrence, 4679219, 4679541 ext 193 or 430, 7 am - 3 pm.
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SALMIYA, Hamad Al Mubarak Street. One room in 2 bedroom flat for Goan/Mangalorean family or bachelors from 1/2/90. Bus routes 14, 15, 19, 30, 109 & 505. Tele. Joseph, 4844135/4832594.
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(AT3-50971-3)

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(AT3-JA-TM-3)

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(AT3-50984-2)

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(AT2-HU-3)

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(AT4-50993-3)

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(AT3-50953-3)

TOYOTA Cressida GL 1983, white, fully automatic insured up to December 1990 in very good condition for best offer. Tele. 4330795, after 2.30 pm.
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LADIES, do you have any hardy worn clothes you do not want? Well, why not turn them into cash? We will buy them for cash and collect. Tele. 2633758 any time 9 am - 9.30 pm.
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FURNITURE, household appliances etc. in good condition, for a European family. Tele. 5624111 - Room 676, 4 pm onwards.
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MAID, Sri Lankan, seeks part-time job with an American or European family. Tele. 2636159, 4 - 7 pm.
(AT3-50987-3)

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(AT2-50953-3)

Vacant
AN embassy experienced housemaid required. English spoken is a must and professional in European cooking, non living-in only qualified should Tele. 2563148-9, 8 am - 2 pm.
(AT4-50982-3)

MAID required for a small Japanese family. Good experience necessary. Must be willing to move to Canada. Tele. 5312870 for an interview, 9 am - 1 pm.
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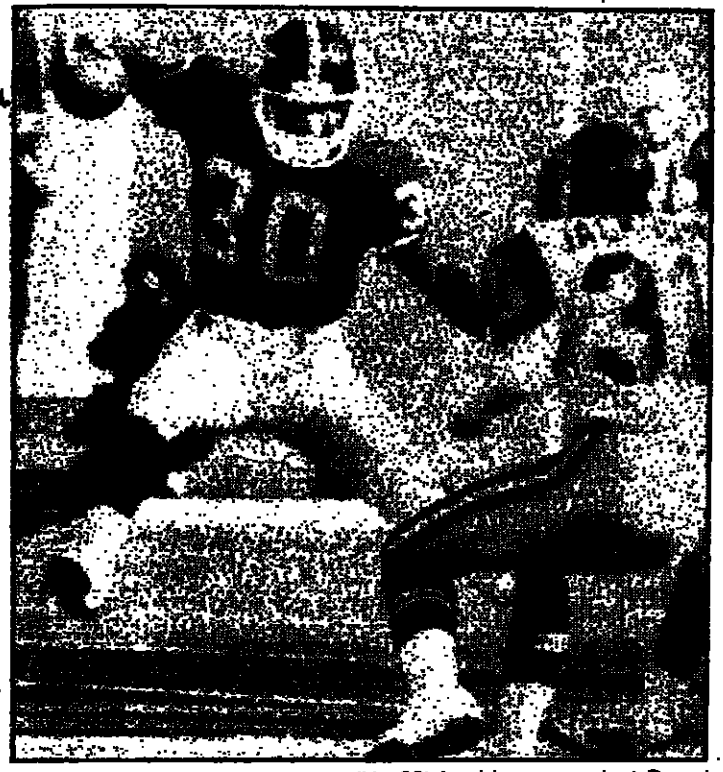
Each day in the classified pages of the Arab Times

ARAB TIMES NEWS IS OUR BUSINESS

مكاتب الأمل



Giants' Gary Reasons is flipped as Rams Grey Bell (No 42) goes by. (Reuters wirephoto)



New York Giants' Dave Meggett (No 30) is airborne against Rams' defender Al Jackson. (Reuters wirephoto)

Two tied for chess lead

HASTING, England, Jan 8. (Reuters) Yugoslav grandmaster Predrag Nikolic lost to Boris Gulko of the United States in the Hastings Premier Chess Tournament yesterday and was forced to share the ninth round lead with Sergei Dolmatov of the Soviet Union.

Early in the mid-game, Nikolic fell into a kings Indian trap that has been known since 1970 and lost his rook for bishop. After this, Gulko had no problem in taking the game.

England's Michael Adams was a pawn up, but came under pressure and lost his early advantage, allowing his compatriot Murray Chandler to move on to victory.

Artur Yusupov of the Soviet Union and Canada's Kevin Spraggett played a colourless draw, as did England's Jon Speelman and Sergei Dolmatov of the Soviet Union.

But for Dolmatov, the half point was enough to move him up to equal-first with Nikolic in the overall standings.

1990 Cup special: Pele

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, Jan 8. (AP) Brazil's ex-soccer great Pele predicted this year's World Cup in Italy would be marked by top-quality play and pointed to six favourites, in a newspaper interview published yesterday.

Pele told the Rio daily Jornal do Brasil that the tournament, which gets under way in June, would be special because a large number of the world's top stars — including many from powerhouses Brazil, Holland and Germany — play for Italian teams during the regular season.

"The main attractions are well known to the Italian fans. The stars will be battling to affirm their level of play, on the same stage but wearing another shirt," Pele said.

He said the participation of standouts such as Careca of Brazil, Maradona of Argentina, and Gullit of Holland would ensure a "beautiful tournament."

"The stars will try, with all their talent, to lead their team to the title. The one who is able to will see his reputation soar," Pele said.

Pele pointed to Brazil, Italy, Argentina, Holland, Germany and the Soviet Union as pre-tournament favourites.

"Brazil has a very high quality team with players experienced in European soccer. They know a good performance in Italy will guarantee new contracts," he said.

He said Brazil would have to utilize its speed and play aggressively.

"It's important to use speed to attack and to have midfielders that move to the front... if we're able to do that, we'll dispute the title," Pele said.

Pele, who led Brazil to the world championship in 1958, 1962 and 1970, is now an adviser to the national team.

He said defending champion

Argentina had not been playing well in its exhibition games but, "if Maradona recovers from his injuries they'll be strong again."

Pele said the Soviet Union, which will compete along with Argentina in Group B during opening round play, is also a top contender.

"They have an excellent team. They work hard and can attack with a number of different players," he said.

He said Italy, the only other three-time champion besides Brazil, had a big edge because it would be playing in front of its fans.

"They haven't been playing very well in their exhibition games but they should improve during the Cup. Their fans are a big help. Italians are soccer fanatics, they root hard during the whole game," Pele said.

Pele said Holland would be hard to beat if all their players — particularly star striker

Gullit, who has been hobbled by injuries — were in top shape.

"They have very skillful players. If they all play they can be a finalist and they deserve to be," Pele said.

Pele also said West Germany could take the cup.

"They have an excellent coach, Beckenbauer, and play modern soccer. Their mid-field is perfect," he said.



Pele predicts top quality play

Gullit, who has been hobbled by injuries — were in top shape.

"They have very skillful players. If they all play they can be a finalist and they deserve to be," Pele said.

Pele also said West Germany could take the cup.

"They have an excellent coach, Beckenbauer, and play modern soccer. Their mid-field is perfect," he said.

Barcelona beat Bilbao for 3rd place



Portuguese midfielder Joao Pinto (left) tries to outrun Castilla defender during Sunday's Spanish 2nd Division match. (Reuters wirephoto)

MADRID, Jan 8. (Reuters) Two players were sent off as Barcelona scored their first away win over Athletic Bilbao in five seasons yesterday to go third in the Spanish Soccer League.

Goals from Aitor Beguiristain — the second two minutes from time — secured Barcelona's 2-0 win which left them on 23 points in the standings, one behind second-placed Valencia but still six adrift of leaders Real Madrid.

Real beat fourth-placed city neighbours Athletic 3-1 on Saturday while Valencia beat Celta 2-0.

Barcelona's Brazilian defender Aloisio Pires and Athletic's defender Patxi Salinas were sent off 12 minutes



Pinto (left) tackles a Castilla player. (Reuters wirephoto)

Brazil defeat Soviet Union for crown

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, Jan 8. (AP) Brazil, powered by star striker Marcelo Negrao, outclassed the Soviet Union to win the gold medal yesterday in the finals of the first world youth volleyball championship.

The Brazilians pulled off an emphatic 3-1 victory over a somewhat ragged Soviet side in a nearly two and a half hour game, winning 15-9, 15-8, 12-15, 15-10.

Earlier yesterday, Bulgaria, routed 3-0 by the Soviet Union in the semifinals, beat Iran to win the bronze medal in the tournament for players aged 17 and under. Bulgaria won 15-1, 15-11, 15-2.

Negrao did not allow the usually well-knit Soviet side to organize in the final, putting up some decisive and savage smashes.

Overall, the Brazilians displayed better team spirit than their opponents, who briefly threatened to take the crown with a disciplined approach in the third set.

That set, where the Soviets held off a splendid Brazilian comeback, was the most exciting in the final, watched by a capacity crowd of 3,000. Both the Brazilians and the Soviets had their sections of cheering fans.

Brazil was given a dressing down by coach Antonio Lerbach after their third set debacle.

Rams top Giants in overtime

Broncos rally to outlast Steelers

DENVER, Colo., Jan 8. (Reuters) The Denver Broncos overcame the underdog Pittsburgh Steelers 24-23, and the Los Angeles Rams upset the New York Giants 19-13 in overtime on Sunday to set the stage for the semifinals of the National Football League's Super Bowl tournament.

Denver will host the Cleveland Browns next Sunday in the American Football Conference final, while the Rams travel to San Francisco to play the 49ers for the right to represent the National Football Conference in the Super Bowl on January 28 in New Orleans.

Denver, struggling to catch the 10-1/2 point underdogs from Pittsburgh, used a daring flea-flicker play to sustain a fourth-quarter drive that led to a touchdown with two minutes 27 seconds left that finally put the Broncos into the lead.

The decisive drive, which featured a 34-yard razzle-dazzle connection between quarterback John Elway and Vance Johnson, started on Denver's 29 yard line and took eight plays. Melvin Bratton plunged over from the one to tie the score at 23 and David Treadwell kicked the extra point for the winning margin.

The Steelers lost their last chance when quarterback Bobby Brister, bothered by the noisy Mile High Stadium crowd, fumbled the exchange from centre while in the shotgun formation. Randy Robbins recovered for the Broncos, who then ran out the clock.

Los Angeles took advantage of a controversial call in overtime and Rams quarterback Jim Everett threw 30 yards to Willie "Flipper" Anderson for a touchdown after just one minute and six seconds of sudden-death.

The winning play was set up by a 27-yard pass interference penalty against Giants defender Sheldon White, who appeared to have had only incidental contact

as he and intended receiver Anderson dove for the ball at the 25-yard line.

A 22-yard field goal by Rams kicker Mike Lansford with three minutes left forced the overtime. The Rams won the coin toss and scored on the first possession of sudden death.

Most Giants refused to comment on the controversial call, but Giants linebacker Steve Deosis said: "The call was an unnecessary one. At that point in the game, the players should decide who wins, not the officials."

The Giants dominated the first half but failed to score a touchdown, settling for 35 and 41-yard field goals by Raul Allegre. In the closing seconds, New York tried again to get into field goal position but quarterback Phil Simms was picked off by Michael Stewart, who ran it back to New York's 20.

Everett then hit Anderson for a touchdown with just seven seconds left to give the Rams a 7-6 halftime lead.

The Giants got the only points of the third quarter when Otis Anderson, who rushed for 120 yards, scored on a two-yard plunge to end a 14-play drive that covered 82 yards. Two Lansford field goals in the fourth quarter tied it.

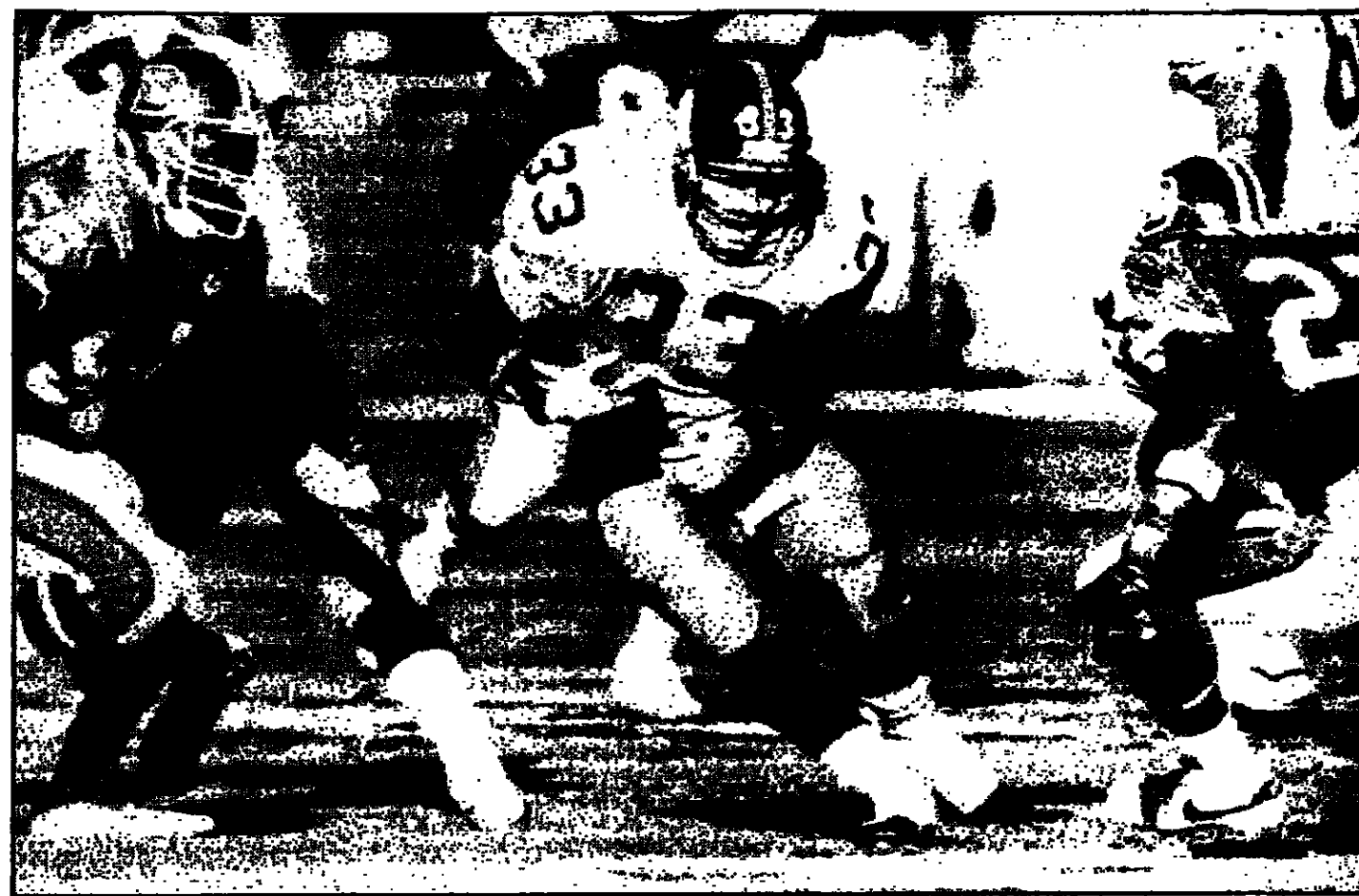
Pittsburgh, relying on the power running of Merrill Hoge, scored the first 10 points against Denver and led 17-10 at the half.

Denver pulled even in the third quarter after recovering a Tim Worley fumble on the Pittsburgh 37. Elway fired a touchdown pass to Johnson on the next play to tie it at 17.

Two Gary Anderson field goals gave the Steelers a six-point cushion, which held up until Denver's winning drive.

"Elway found a way to win. But you have to give Pittsburgh credit. They almost blew us out," Denver coach Dan Reeves said.

Johnson, who caught three passes for 85 yards, said: "As long



Steelers' running back Merrill Hoge (No 33) slides between Broncos' defenders Michael Brooks (left) and Steve Atwater. (Reuters wirephoto)

as Elway has a chance, he gets it done."

Hoge, who rushed for 120 yards and caught eight passes for 60 yards for Pittsburgh, was crushed. "We came a long way, such a long way. Now it's over. It hurts," he said.

Denver's victory sets up their third match for the AFC title in four years against the Browns. The Broncos advanced past Cleveland in both 1987 and 1988 to reach the Super Bowl.

"We respect Cleveland and know it will be a tough, tough game," Reeves said. "The other

two games mean nothing."

Jerry Glanville, the man in black, is gone. He packed away his Elvis tapes, jumped into his vintage Mercury called the "James Dean special" and screamed away from his job as Houston Oilers head coach.

The rebel will seek a new cause under another NFL emblem.

Houston general manager Mike Holovak, the reason for part of Glanville's unhappiness, stood quietly in the back of the room as owner Bud Adams announced Glanville's departure late Saturday.

Holovak now returns to the spotlight to help pick a successor, and it's likely the new Oilers coach will not be leaving tickets at will call for Elvis Presley and the Phantom of the Opera.

He likely will be less of a centerpiece in the Oilers organization, and he may not feud as much with other coaches and the media.

Holovak hopes, above all, he'll just coach football.

"We'll look for someone whose No. 1 thought is just the football team," Holovak said.

Williams beats Swindell to retain title

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey, Jan 8. (AP) Prince Charles Williams retained his International Boxing Federation light heavyweight title last night by stopping Frankie Swindell at the end of the eighth round.

Williams, 28-4-2 with 20 knockouts, knocked Swindell down late in the round with an overhand right that followed a series of right hands and left hooks.

Referee Tony Orlando stopped the fight at the end of the round, giving Williams his 16th straight win and fourth successful title defense.

"He couldn't lift his arms," Orlando said of Swindell.

Williams scored effectively throughout the fight.

In the second round, he backed Swindell into a corner and unloaded several overhand rights, bloodying Swindell's nose.

Williams maintained the advantage in rounds three and four by keeping the slower Swindell away with a sharp left jab and a series of right crosses.

Swindell rallied in the fifth, coming off the ropes after several left hooks from Williams.

Swindell, 19-4-1 with 14 knockouts, caught Williams with a right hand midway through the seventh, then followed with left hooks that dazed the champ.

France name rugby team

PARIS, Jan 8. (Reuters) French rugby union coach Jacques Fouroux rejected an experimental mix of youth and experience, has called back the old guard to face Wales on January 20 in Cardiff in the opening match of the five nations championship.

No new caps were revealed when Fouroux announced the team yesterday.

Prop forward Jean-Pierre Garnet, 36, second-row forward Dominique Erbani, 33, and a handful of others who have said farewell to their 20s have been selected for the Wales match, always regarded by the French as one of the toughest when played at Cardiff Arms Park.

"This is a team to win. Some fine people may joke, but I know that the Welsh won't be laughing," said Fouroux.

The most inexperienced players are 23-year-old number eight Olivier Roumat, who will be making his debut in the five nations tournament, and 1.98-metres Thierry Devergie, who gains his sixth cap as a second-row forward.

Full-back Serge Blanco, for years the lynchpin of France's international success, is recalled after being dropped last year against Australia. He will gain his 72nd cap in the Wales match.

Centre Franck Mesnel, suspended for taking part in a sevens tournament in Uruguay without permission, is replaced by 27-year-old Denis Charvet, who renews an old acquaintance with fellow centre Philippe Sella.

Squad

Serge Blanco; Patrice Lagisquet, Philippe Sella, Denis Charvet, Marc Andrieu; Didier Camberabero, Pierre Berbizier (Captain); Olivier Roumat, Laurent Rodrigues, Dominique Erbani, Thierry Devergie, Eric Champ, Pascal Ondarts, Louis Armay, Jean-pierre Garnet.



Porto goalie Victor Baia seems to fly through the air in an effort to save a shot. (Reuters wirephoto)

Porto retain Portuguese lead

LISBON, Jan 8. (Reuters) Porto outwitted Setubal with a neatly-dummed goal to score a 1-0 away win yesterday and stay top of the Portuguese Soccer First Division.

Antonio Andre wrong-footed the defence by stepping over a through-ball two minutes after the interval and Fernando Bandeirinha ran through unchallenged to hammer a 25-metre shot into the top corner of the net.

Unfancied Guimaraes kept up their challenge with a straightforward 2-0 home victory over Pen-

afiel, the goals coming from Brazilian imports Bene and Joao Batista.

Porto have 26 points from 15 games, one more than Guimaraes. Benfica were playing Uniao de Madeira later yesterday on the Atlantic Island but were certain to stay in third place.

Sporting, fielding seven Brazilians, dropped a point in a goalless Saturday night encounter at Amadora played in atrocious conditions amid torrential rain. They are four points behind the leaders.

Alderman takes five wickets

SYDNEY, Jan 8, (Reuters): A five-wicket haul by Test strike bowler Terry Alderman for Western Australia today destroyed New South Wales' bid for a big first innings lead in their Sheffield Shield cricket match in Sydney.

Alderman's onslaught in the morning session of the third day, and rain in the afternoon, seemed to have condemned the clash to a draw as New South Wales just managed to squeeze first innings points.

Resuming at 243 for five, they were all out for 264 — a lead of two runs.

At the close Western Australia were 106 for one in their second innings with all-rounder Tom Moody, hampered by a badly bruised left hand, on 66 and Test opener Geoff Marsh 36.

Alderman, hero of Australia's Ashes triumph in England last year, took five for 16 today, his last three victims falling in the space of seven deliveries without a run being scored, to finish with figures of five for 62.

New South Wales surrendered their last seven wickets for 22 runs off 21.4 overs.

In Adelaide, 19-year-old left hander Darren Lehmann plundered 125 off 126 deliveries from Victoria's pace attack, but his efforts failed to nudge South Australia past Victoria's first innings total of 500 for eight declared.

The innings fell apart when Lehmann left, the last seven wickets falling for the addition of 88 runs. They were all out for 410.

Victoria were 48 for two at the close of the third day.

Rally drivers take day off

PARIS, Jan 8, (Reuters): Competitors in the Paris-Dakar rally took a deserved day's break yesterday after a chaotic stage through the Niger desert, left motorcyclists and car drivers stranded in the sands.

Some motorcyclists said on arrival in the Niger town of Agadez they had been involved in fights with desert nomads who tried to rob them.

Halfway through the 18-stage rally, French carmaker Peugeot still dominates the rally with veteran Finn Ari Vatanen almost two hours ahead of the pack.

He is followed by three other drivers for the French carmaker and Peugeot looks certain once again of victory in the car race when it arrives in the Senegalese capital on Jan 16.

On the motorcycles, the war between Italy's Cagiva and Japan's Yamaha is hotting up. Italy's Edi Orioli on a Cagiva won Saturday's 780-kg stage on a disastrous day for Yamaha's French riders Cyril Neveu and Stephane Peterhansel.

Peterhansel abandoned the rally after his gear box broke up and Neveu, who lost his way, arrived at Agadez in the middle of the night.

Initially thought to have abandoned, Neveu in fact faces disqualification after several witnesses said they saw him driving on a Tarmac road instead of on the desert sands.

Queensland score 436 for eight Injury-hit Pakistanis struggle to find form



Qadir: hurt

BRISBANE, Australia, Jan 8, (Reuters): Injury-hit Pakistan, struggling to find their form in Australia, failed to dismiss state side Queensland in their four-day cricket game today.

Queensland declared their first innings at 436 for eight in reply to Pakistan's 257 and at the close of the third day the touring side were eight without loss in their second innings.

Debutant opener Geoff Foley and skipper Greg Ritchie took advantage of Pakistan's weakened bowling attack to score 155 and 123 respectively.

Pakistan, who face Australia in the first of three Tests in Melbourne on Friday, did little to boost their confidence which is at a low ebb after losing their two opening games in the World Series Cup one-day tournament. The triangular tournament, which includes Sri Lanka,

resumes on February 10.

Pakistan's bowling attack against Queensland was severely weakened by the absence of Wasim Akram, who was omitted with a groin strain and a finger injury to leg-spinner Abdul Qadir yesterday. Qadir is now doubtful for the first Test.

Qadir, who bowled only two deliveries in his second spell of the morning to prevent any further damage to his finger, was rebuked by captain Imran Khan towards the end of play after dropping Steve Storey who scored 54.

Ritchie, who scored his 12th century for Queensland, was upstaged by Foley, who took one minute short of nine hours to compile 155 and set two records. His score was the highest by an Australian making his debut against a touring international side and the slowest 150 posted in

Australian first class cricket.

Scoreboard																							
PAKISTAN first innings 257 (Javed Miandad 77 M. Patabe five for 56)																							
203 (for two)																							
P. Cantrell c Qadir b Yousuf	19																						
S. Law c Imran b Qadir	30	G. Ritchie c Yousuf b Malik	123	P. Clifford b Malik	1	C. Smart b Javed	11	S. Storey c Javed b Aswar	54	L. Healy b Aswar	25	M. Polzin not out	0	Extras (lb-12 w-1 nb-5)	18	Total (eight wickets declared)	436	Fall of wickets: 1-35 2-105 3-330 4-332 5-349 6-356 7-434 8-436		Decl. bats: C. Rickmann, P. Carey		Bowling: Imran Khan 34-6-80-0, Asghar Javed 34-11-79-2 (1W 3NB), Waqar Younis 24-8-59-1, Abdul Qadir 32-6-80-1, Shoaib Mohammad 2-1-4-0, Asim Malik 14-1-57-2 (2NB), Saeed Anwar 14-5-15-2	
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PAKISTAN second innings

Asim Malik not out

Shoaib Mohammad not out

Extras

Total (seven wickets)

Bowling to date: Polzin 3-1-5-0, Carey 3-2-3-0

Lankans hold on to draw in Tasmania

DEVONPORT, Australia, Jan 8, (Reuters): Sri Lanka's Aravinda de Silva and Tasmanian fast bowler Rod Tucker had to be separated by the umpires and Tasmanian captain Dirk Wellham after a scuffle on the final day of their three-day cricket match which ended in a draw yesterday.

Sri Lanka, set 242 to win after Tasmania's second declaration of the match, were 200 for seven in their second innings at the close.

De Silva appeared to run into Tucker after hitting an on drive. After running three, De Silva returned to the bowler's end where the two began pushing each other as an enraged Tucker pointed his finger at the diminutive Sri Lankan batsman.

The umpire at the bowling end was joined by the square leg umpire and Wellham who both raised the length of the pitch to intervene.

De Silva, Player of the Series in the recent two-Test series, took out his anger by hitting Greg Campbell for four boundaries before he was dismissed by the fast bowler for 39.

Campbell was involved in an ugly incident in the second Test in Hobart, Tasmania, when he clashed with Ramesh Ratanayake as Australia strove for victory in the final hour.

The touring side later alleged they had been the object of racial taunts from some Australian players.

Tasmania, resuming at 175 for six in their second innings, added 63 this morning before declaring at 238 for eight with Ranjit Madurasinghe taking four for 80.

Sri Lankan Athula Samarasekera was caught off the last ball before lunch and two further wickets just before tea gave Tasmania a whiff of victory, with Sri Lanka at 123 for five.

But eighth-wicket pair Cham-paka Ramanayake and Graeme Labrooy put on the unbeaten 44 to guide Sri Lanka to safety.

After the match, Wellham reported De Silva to the Australian Cricket Board's code of behaviour commissioner at the game, David Barnes.

Wellham made his report after umpires Paul Clarke and Bernard Knight, standing in their first game involving an overseas side, said they would not report the incident.

Barnes heard evidence from both Wellham and De Silva and will forward his conclusion to the



Aravinda de Silva

board. Wellham said after the match that the confrontation was unfortunate.

De Silva said it was "nothing important."

"I brushed the bowler as I ran past and he got a bit upset," he said.

Scoreboard

TASMANIA first innings 210 for one

declared (D. Boon 133 not out, G. Shipperd 57 not out)

TASMANIA second innings 207 for six

declared (H. Tillekeratne 74, Asoka de Silva 66 not out)

TASMANIA second innings (over-

nights 175 for six)

R. Bennett c Madurasinghe b Asoka de Silva

80

R. Soule c Wickremasinghe b Ratanayake

4

J. Cox c Labrooy b Madurasinghe 31

R. Tucker b Ramanayake 10

D. Weir b Madurasinghe 29-4

G. Robertson c Asoka de Silva b Madurasinghe

39

T. Cooley lbw b Madurasinghe 10

D. Gilbert lbw b Ramanayake 7

D. Boon not out 25

G. Campbell not out 5

Extras (8-6 lb-4 nb-10)

20

Total (for eight wickets)

declared 238

Fall of wickets: 1-11 2-61 3-75 4-138

5-138 6-162 7-178 8-216

Bowling: Ramanayake 25-4-96-2

(7nb), Ratanayake 9-1-18-1, Tillekeratne 2-0-10-0, Madurasinghe 29-4

80-4, Asoka de Silva 13-0-24-1 (3nb)

SRI LANKA second innings

Samarasekera c Cox b Cooley 11

G. Wickremasinghe b Gilbert 35

H. Tillekeratne b Campbell 35

Asoka de Silva lbw b Gilbert 34

R. Kalpage c Cooley b Robertson 0

C. Ramanayake not out 16

S. Jayasuriya c Cooley b Robertson 13

G. Labrooy not out 26

Extras (8-7 lb-7 w-1 nb-10)

25

Total (seven wickets)

200

Fall of wickets: 1-14 2-17 3-83 4-121

5-121 6-139 7-156

Bowling: Gilbert 13-0-44-2 (4nb), Cooley 9-3-45-1 (3nb 1w), Tucker 8-1-26-0 (2nb), Campbell 16-4-44-2 (1nb), Robertson 16-6-27-2

Result: Match drawn.

Masur outlasts Sanchez

SYDNEY, Jan 8, (Reuters): Australia's Wally Masur daydreamed his way through the first set and withstood the frustration of a four-hour rain delay in the third to win his first round match in the New South Wales Open tennis tournament today.

In the only other two men's matches to be completed, last year's losing finalist Andrei Cherkasov of the Soviet Union and Frenchman Guy Forget both advanced to the second round.

Cherkasov, who suffered the indignity of having to qualify for this year's event, took it out on Czechoslovak Petr Korda to win 6-1 4-6 6-4 while Forget defeated Mark Koevoets of the Netherlands 7-5 6-3.

In the women's singles, 15th seed Anne Minter of Australia was the only seeded player to perish, going down 6-4 6-3 to Petr Langrova of Czechoslovakia.

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Frenchman Yannick Noah, the only one of the eight men's seeds in action, led Roland Agener of Haiti by a set and 2-1 when the match was finally halted for the day because of rain.

In the only other two men's matches to be completed, last year's losing finalist Andrei Cherkasov of the Soviet Union and Frenchman Guy Forget both advanced to the second round.

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